

**Faculty Senate Minutes #556
John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

1:40 PM

Zoom

Present (34): Chevy Alford, Maria Arndt, Tarun Banerjee, Elton Beckett, Heath Brown, Jean Carmalt, Kate Cauley, Peter Diaczuk, Jennifer Dysart, Jonathan Epstein, Nina Rose Fischer, Heath Grant, Maki Haberfeld, Veronica Hendrick, Mohammad Islam, Karen Kaplowitz, Catherine Kemp, Edward Kennedy, Vicente Lecuna, Anru Lee, Joseph Maldonado, Mickey Melendez, Sofia Morote, Raymond Patton, Susan Pickman, Stephen Russell, Francis Sheehan, Gregory Sheppard, Marie Springer, Todd Stambaugh, Charles Stone, Robert Till, Sung-Suk (Violet) Yu, Zhun Xu

Absent (3): Madhura Bandyopadhyay, Ned Benton, Brian Montes

Invited Guest: Professor Angelique Corthals

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes #555 of the September 5, 2023, meeting**
- 3. Election of a Senator to the College Council**
- 4. Election of 5 faculty members to serve on the provostial search committee**
- 5. Report on JJ's budget & enrollment: VP Russell**
- 6. Report from the FS Panel on Campus Health and Protection: Professor Angelique Corthals**
- 7. New Business**

1. Adoption of agenda. Approved.

2. Approval of Minutes #555 of the September 5, 2023, meeting. Approved.

3. Election of a Senator to the College Council

The Faculty Senate unanimously elected Senator Robert Till (Security, Fire & Emergency Management) to serve as one of its eight full-time faculty members on the College Council representing the Senate.

4. Election of 5 faculty members to the provostial search committee

Twelve eligible faculty members (all of whom hold tenure) were candidates. The Senate voted by secret ballot, using Simply Voting. The Senate elected Professors:

Heath Grant – Law, Police Science, CJA

Amy Green – Interdisciplinary Studies

Maki Haberfeld – Law, Police Science, CJA

Karen Kaplowitz – English

Charles Stone – Psychology

5. Report on John Jay's Budget & Enrollment: VP Stephen Russell

VP Steve Russell reported that on July 20, the college's Budget and Planning Committee (BPC) approved the college's budget for the 2023–2024 fiscal year and sent it to CUNY. CUNY has asked us to develop a plan to address a major structural deficit in the budget.

This structural deficit amounts to about \$13 million dollars per year out of a total budget of \$134 million dollars. In the budget that was sent to CUNY, the deficit was largely offset in 2023–2024 by so-called CUTRA funds, i.e., rolled over surpluses that remain in this case largely due to federal aid received during the COVID-19 pandemic. John Jay had been the recipient of about \$48 million dollars of HEERF funds. But after 2023–2024 the college is set to fall off a financial cliff. Worse still, the \$13 million per year deficit figure does not include salary increases for faculty and HEOs currently being negotiated between CUNY and the union, which will be no less than \$2.5 million per year.

VP Russell noted that President Mason, Ned Benton, Francis Sheehan and many others are involved in ongoing efforts to lobby the NYS legislature for increased funding for CUNY. While hoping for the best legislative outcome, the President Mason's leadership team and the Faculty Senate executive committee feel that we cannot simply wait for a bailout from the government but need to make strategic decisions now as to how we can make best use of the budget we do have.

He explained that the structural deficit represents a mismatch between revenues and expenditures. Our revenue is tied to enrollment. In John Jay's case about 87% of our budget is funded through enrollment. One way of conceptualizing the deficit is by relating it to a decline in enrollment. Enrollment is currently about 10,500 FTE, which is about 2,000 FTE lower than our peak enrollment before the COVID-19 pandemic. This translates to about \$18 million dollars less in revenue per year. In part, this drop reflects national trends, but even within CUNY some schools have fared better than others. The Senate's executive committee has invited Brian Kerr, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, and Daniel Matos, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management, to discuss enrollment with the Faculty Senate, partly so that we can understand what's involved in enrollment and partly to ensure that the plan for increasing enrollment is sufficiently ambitious and feasible.

VP Russell explained that Mark Flower, Vice President of Finance and Administration and Chief

Operating Officer, is working to provide the college with a range of analyses to help all of us understand costs. Mark has been incredibly open, non-defensive, clear, and very much a pleasure to work with. Our biggest expenses are personnel costs. Full time faculty salaries have been approximately \$45 million per year, adjunct faculty costs are about \$24 million per year and HEOs and other staff salaries are about \$45 million. But we need a range of analyses to understand not just the totals but the relationships of the parts to the whole. The Senate's executive committee has invited Mark to give us an overview of the budget.

No one at the college is talking about a single \$13-million dollar, magic bullet solution that will provide financial stability for the college, VP Russell explained. Rather, the leadership is thinking in terms of a series of \$1million or \$2million dollar strategies that together could put us on secure footing. To put that number in perspective, if we increase enrollment by 111 FTE students, that's a \$1million dollar strategy. If we increase tuition collection rates by 1%, that's another \$1million dollar strategy. This multi-pronged approach depends on all of us at the college working together.

He said that after engaging in meetings and conversations with Karol, Allison, Mark and many others, he doesn't have the sense that the budget is going to be the only factor driving strategic decision-making this year. Administrators and faculty are still framing arguments and making decisions in relation to values like equity, diversity and inclusion, student success, research, curricular breadth, and so on. But he thinks this year financial sustainability will play an important role in the many conversations we have and in many of the decisions we take.

6. Report from the Senate's Panel on Campus Health and Protection: Prof. Angelique Corthals

Professor Corthals (Sciences) presented her most up-to-date slides, the link to which is:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/1cwquyn4dvtzlsz/4_CORTHALS_SARS_COV2_current_slides.pdf?dl=0

Furthermore, the link to all the slides regarding Covid and the pandemic, from March 2020 to now, is at :
https://www.aspcorthals.net/Site/covid19_jjay.html

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Provided by K. Kaplowitz