

**Faculty Senate Minutes #558
John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

Monday, October 16, 2023

1:40 PM

Zoom

Present (34): Chevy Alford, Maria Arndt, Tarun Banerjee, Elton Beckett, Ned Benton, 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, Anru Lee, Joseph Maldonado, Mickey Melendez, Brian Montes, Sofia Morote, Raymond Patton, Susan Pickman, Stephen Russell, Francis Sheehan, Marie Springer, Todd Stambaugh, Charles Stone, Robert Till, Sung-Suk (Violet) Yu, Zhun Xu

Absent (3): Madhura Bandyopadhyay, Vicente Lecuna, Gregory Sheppard

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes #557 of the October 5, 2023, meeting**
- 3. Announcements from the chair**
- 4. Election of faculty to serve on the FS Racial Justice & Inclusion Committee**
- 5. Invited Guest: Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Mark Flower**
- 6. New business**

1. Adoption of agenda. Approved.

2. Approval of Minutes #557 of the October 5, 2023, meeting. Approved.

3. Announcements from the chair

President Kaplowitz reported that President Mason had appointed to the provost search committee the five faculty members whom the Faculty Senate had recommended: Professors Elton Beckett, Maki Haberfeld, Karen Kaplowitz, Vicente Lecuna and Jodie Roure. Subsequently, President Mason determined that Professor Roure is not eligible because she had requested and had received a year-long unpaid leave of absence. And, so, the Senate Executive Committee recommended to President Mason the next highest vote recipient, Heath Grant, and accordingly President Mason has appointed Heath Grant to the search committee.

Senator Maki Haberfeld has been selected to receive the Outstanding Faculty Award at the Alumni Annual Award Dinner on Thursday, October 26

President Kaplowitz briefed the Senate about a college policy adopted by the College Council in 2003 on *Class Size and Course Cancellation* that was co-jointly proposed by the Faculty Senate and the Council of Chairs and that was approved by the College Council that same year. She explained that this policy is the basis for the class size floor being set at JJ at 12. The policy lowered class size for most classes from 46 to 36 and, because the floor is set by this policy as being a third of the class size, the floor is 12.

The Senate and Chairs had included a process for waiving this requirement in case of severe fiscal emergency, which the Senate and Chairs may consider using; one proposal now being floated by the administration is to raise the floor for a class to run from 12 to 15 students. But the faculty members have the majority number of seats on the Budget Planning Committee, which is the body that would have to approve such a waiver and, so, if the faculty opposes this increase, the faculty could vote it down. This waiver has never taken place.

She also reported that VP Stephen Russell and Senator Ned Benton had raised the question as to how many in-person course sections would have been cancelled if the floor had been raised from 12 to 15 this semester. The answer from the administration was that more than half of the 181 sections that would have been cancelled were in-person classes. She noted that John Jay is already an outlier, in that we have the smallest percentage of in-person course sections in CUNY; she further noted that were we to raise the floor, our percentage of in-person sections would be even smaller than it currently is.

4. Election of faculty to the FS Committee on Racial Justice & Inclusion

Professor Belinda Rincon (Latin American and Latinx Studies & English) was elected.

5. Invited Guest: Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Mark Flower

Vice President Mark Flower reported that we have no projected deficit for this fiscal year (which ends on June 30) but that we are projecting a deficit of \$8.9 million for FY2025, a deficit of \$21.9 million for FY2026, and a deficit of \$32.3 million for FY2027.

In 2022 we started to miss our revenue target because of a loss in student enrollment; there was a \$6.6 million gap between our revenues and our expenditures. Our enrollment declined by 2,000 students since the pandemic.

VP Flower reported that CUNY has not approved our fiscal plan for the current fiscal year because we did not include a plan to redress the projected deficit. The one lever point CUNY has over us is our OTPS [Other than Personnel Services] budget. We requested \$7.8 million in OTPS funds, but CUNY has released only \$5 million to us, thus far this year.

Senator Heath Brown asked if his reading of VP Flower's charts is correct in that it seems to him that the cost of administrative salaries is higher than the cost of faculty salaries. VP Flower said this is true, unless one adds the cost of adjunct salaries, but in terms of full-time administrators'

salaries versus faculty salaries, the administrative salary cost is higher. He noted that John Jay joined HELIO Campus Benchmarking Consortium which enables us to analyze our administrative spending in comparison to 80 other institutions of higher education in order to inform budget and resource planning; unfortunately, he added, no other CUNY college has joined the consortium so we can't compare our costs to any of the CUNY colleges. In any case, it turns out that John Jay is undersized compared with other campuses with regard to administrative staff. Nonetheless, VP Flower acknowledged this discrepancy is a problem for us.

Senator Brown also noted that our Strategic Plan speaks of Professional Studies; he asked if that entity brings revenue as it is supposed to. VP Flower said after looking at how Professional Studies was structured, the administration decided to disband the entity. It had reported to Dean Anthony Carpi who is now looking at how to restructure the department. Professional Studies was supposed to be self-supporting, which means it was supposed to generate sufficient money that it was self-paying, but instead it had been funded by tax-levy monies for the past 5 to 6 years. And, therefore, it was disbanded.

Senator Jean Carmalt asked whether John Jay loses or gains revenue when our faculty teach at the Graduate Center. VP Flower said John Jay pays the full-time salary and we get reimbursed a percentage of that amount. She noted that means we lose money when our faculty teach there. She also expressed concern about possible actions that have been mentioned that will be harmful to our students; making their education worse is not what we want to do. She asked about the transition to Brightspace. VP Flower said the Student Tech Fee and the Tech Fee Committees have an influence that can drive decisions at CUNY.

Senator Nina Rose Fischer questioned how we are capitalizing on the fact that we have more students online than the other CUNY colleges and that we have excellent and effective online classes. VP Flower said we have no online degree programs but the community colleges do and, so, we are piloting online completion degree programs for our community college transfer students. Our pilot has 80 students – we had wanted 150 – and our goal is 1,000 students.

Senator Susan Pickman asked about our philanthropy situation and, specifically, how we rate relative to other CUNY schools. VP Flower said that since President Mason and VP Ketura Parker took the reins in this area, our philanthropy has increased. We raised \$6 million from donors last year and we transferred another \$1.5 million from our Aux Corps to our John Jay Foundation. There is now \$23 million in our fund. We spend \$5 million to \$6 million each year on student scholarships and faculty support and some related programs. The staff salaries for CUSP [Completion for Upper-division Student Program] are all reimbursed by the Foundation. He added that we are still small; for example, Baruch has a \$300 million endowment. But since President Mason and VP Parker took this on, our philanthropy fund has doubled.

Senator Todd Stambaugh asked about the Federal HEERF funds, which he noted were for the effects the pandemic has had on the colleges and its students. He said we need to be looking for ways to grow our college. VP Flower said he absolutely agrees. The HEERF funds helped but we are facing a structural deficit for the next several years.

Explaining about our collection rate – the percentage of our students who pay their tuition bills – VP Flower reported that our Spring 2023 rate was 95.2%. He explained that although our fiscal year ends on June 30, students don't have to pay until August, and so there is a lag in collections. He also explained that last year the governor and legislature put a law into place forbidding NYS colleges from holding back transcripts and degrees until students paid all they owed a college. There's a huge trend of students not paying their tuition, he said. By making full tuition payment a condition of attending commencement, we collected an additional \$1.6 million from our graduating seniors last semester. But we didn't collect \$2.1 million from other seniors.

VP Flower told the Senate they – and anyone with access to Inside John Jay – may access a series of fiscal dashboards that are updated daily: go to Inside John Jay and then click on "Resource." In addition to the budgets of the college and other entities within the college, the budget of each academic department can be seen there, with detailed information.

VP Flower was thanked for giving this important presentation to the Senate. He said it was his pleasure and that he was very glad he had been invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Provided by K. Kaplowitz

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