

**Faculty Senate Minutes #560
John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

1:40 PM

Zoom

Present (32): Chevy Alford, Maria Arndt, Madhura Bandyopadhyay, Tarun Banerjee, Elton Beckett, Ned Benton, Heath Brown, Jean Carmalt, Kate Cauley, Jennifer Dysart, Jonathan Epstein, Nina Rose Fischer, Heath Grant, Maki Haberfeld, Veronica Hendrick, Mohammad Islam, Karen Kaplowitz, Catherine Kemp, Edward Kennedy, Vicente Lecuna, Joseph Maldonado, Mickey Melendez, Brian Montes, Raymond Patton, Susan Pickman, Stephen Russell, Francis Sheehan, Marie Springer, Todd Stambaugh, Robert Till, Sung-Suk (Violet) Yu, Zhun Xu

Absent (5): Peter Diaczuk, Anru Lee, Sofia Morote, Gregory Sheppard, Charles Stone

Invited Guest: Interim VP for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs Daniel Matos

AGENDA

- 1. Adoption of the agenda**
- 2. Approval of Minutes #559 of the November 2, 2023, meeting**
- 3. Proposed revision of the text on the wall next to Room L61 about**
- 4. Elect 3 faculty to the Student Tech Fee Committee**
- 5. Invited Guest: Interim VP for EMSA Daniel Matos**
- 6. Proposed Letter to the Faculty regarding fire/emergency alarms**
- 7. Discussion about a proposal to align JJ's tuition payment rules with those of other senior colleges, such as Brooklyn College, that require payment of tuition or an approved alternative payment plan, before attendance in classes is permitted**
- 8. New business**

1. Adoption of agenda. Approved.

2. Approval of Minutes #559 of the November 2, 2023, meeting. Approved.

3. Election of 3 faculty to the Student Technology Fee Committee

The Student Tech Fee Committee was mandated on each campus by the CUNY Board of Trustees when it established the mandatory Student Tech Fee. The members are: 3 faculty members chosen by the Faculty Senate; 3 administrators; and 6 students. The committee invites applications for funding and decides how to spend the \$4 million to \$5 million dollars in

tech fees collected each year from our students. The funds may be spent only on items and projects that serve our students.

The Senate elected Professor Marta Bladek (Library); Shweta Jain (Math & CS); and Adam Wandt (Public Management), who has been serving for the past several years.

4. Proposed revision of the text on the wall next to Room L61 about John Jay, the man: Executive Committee

Senator Tarun Banerjee said he likes this new version, it is clearer, but he counts 6 or 7 positive adjectives about John Jay but no negative adjectives about slavery; it is very neutral. Senator Ray Patton said John Jay is a case study in the positive and negative history of our country but the text seems to only be endorsing him. Senator Susan Pickman noted that John Jay didn't even free the people he enslaved at his death. Senator Ned Benton said of the people who did anything to end slavery, Jay was clearly one of the most consequential people and that he thinks this version strikes a balance by giving facts and not telling people what to think. President Kaplowitz said the purpose of this very brief bio is to explain why our college is named after Jay, not to make the case that the name of our college should be changed. The Executive Committee was asked to return with further revisions, which it agreed to.

4. Invited Guest: Interim VP for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs Daniel Matos

Interim VP for Enrollment Management & Student Affairs [EMSA] was welcomed and congratulated on his new position. He noted that since the onset of the pandemic CUNY has lost 50,000 students. Now both CUNY and the campuses are working to get those students back. CUNY has been able to get 17,000 students back so far.

He said he was at CUNY Central earlier in the day for a presentation about enrollment and there are several points of good news: freshmen applications are up by 386%; during all of October, those who live within NYC may apply for admission to CUNY for free, with no application or other fees; those who live outside NYC but within NYS, free application for admission will take place during the last two weeks of October. CUNY has also announced that every student in a public school in NYC will be guaranteed admission to one of the colleges of CUNY. In addition, we still do traditional recruitment, which involves visits to high schools, zoom meetings, campus tours, information sessions about majors and programs both undergraduate and graduate.

VP Matos explained that at John Jay, we cap the number of freshman we accept at 2,000. The question is whether we should take more freshmen. We have to determine what we would have to do to grow the freshman class to 2300: what resources will we need; how many English and Math courses we will need to offer; how many more freshman seminars. We have to make sure if we increase the freshman class we are not negatively impacting graduation and retention rates. So we also need to look at recruiting our other students.

CUNY says that most of the loss the university suffered – and this is true of John Jay as well – was at the transfer student level. Our college enrolls 2,000 transfer students every fall and 1,400 every spring. The community colleges suffered the most in terms of enrollment loss during the pandemic and most of our transfer students are from the CUNY community colleges. The best feeder college for John Jay is BMCC, which is the community college that lost the most enrollment during the pandemic. Transfer applications are not yet back up. There's some hope that there will be increased enrollment at the community colleges, but it will be two years before we see those students transferring to John Jay.

We have designed and built a strategic enrollment plan that looks at veteran and military populations because they can use their GI benefits at John Jay; furthermore, they have the added incentive that their family members are eligible for the NY instate tuition rate wherever they are living. In addition, we are rated one of the best colleges for veterans in CUNY.

In addition, we have uniformed personnel who may have completed 60 credits at John Jay who moved on to one of the uniformed professions but now want to return to finish their degree. We are coordinating with the NYPD commissioner who will provide us with a list to recruit them to return to finish their education. And we're also focusing on outer state and international students.

VP Matos explained that pre-pandemic we admitted 6,000 students in order to yield a freshmen class of 2,000. Now we have to admit 10,000 students to yield 2,000. And CUNY has made another change which is a negative for us. It used to be that when applying, students were required to rank list the six CUNY colleges they wanted to attend and, therefore, we could focus on those who listed John Jay as their first choice. Now applicants can apply to six senior colleges without ranking them.

Senator Robert Till asked if the GI Bill can be applied to graduate programs. VP Matos said he would have to check, but added that it's not just tuition and fees that the GI Bill covers, but housing allowance. Senator Nina Rose Fischer asked how enrollment would be affected if we had a viable and robust online degree program. VP Matos said he can't begin to tell us the huge number of students we turn away, specifically veterans, adult learners, and in-service personnel, who want our majors but want to take them entirely online. And they are asking about our most popular majors: criminal justice, forensic psychology, and criminology. We sent out an email about the online completion program we are planning and we received 7,000 emails asking about an online program in criminal justice. The demand for fully online degree programs is out there because of our mission, our faculty, and our majors.

Senator Sung-suk Yu asked whether he is talking about synchronous or asynchronous fully online programs. VP Matos said this issue came up this very morning at CUNY Central. CUNY is implementing its version of CUNY online, which means we are now competing with not only the other colleges but also with CUNY. This morning CUNY said that the CUNY Online Passport would apply to any college and a student can take fully online courses at any of the other colleges. CUNY's online degree program is only asynchronous because students are saying they

don't want to have to be in a single place at a single time. He raised the point at the CUNY Central meeting that if you look at all of the online courses at all the CUNY colleges, half are offered asynchronously and half are offered synchronously, which means that our faculty and students are saying there's a demand for face to face classes, especially courses such as laboratory classes. So, he said, when he speaks about online programs at John Jay, he's talking about both asynchronous and synchronous.

Senator Francis Sheehan asked whether students should have to pay their full tuition bill before they start their next semester. VP Matos said no student can register if they have past debts. The rule about paying tuition for the next semester is that students must pay their tuition by the first day of classes or they are technically considered not to be enrolled. Yet, he said, he doesn't know of any college president who has respected this rule. Most institutions permit a window of time for tuition to be paid. At least one major reason for this is that it's so onerous for a college to conduct financial aid verification that it can't be done by the first day of classes. We used to cancel a student's registration for non-payment. But do we want to drop a student who owes only \$100 or \$500, he asked. What's the threshold for dropping a student? It turns out our seniors and juniors are a little bit more receptive about loans than our lower-division students. If we were to drop students who don't pay their tuition this could impact enrollment. The federal government rewrote the financial aid rules this year – they are changing the EFC [estimated family contribution] – and as a result FAFSA is not yet open. VP Matos said this issue has lots of complexity, which he would love to discuss further with the Senate.

6. Proposed Letter to the faculty regarding fire/emergency alarms

President Kaplowitz presented the draft letter to the faculty about fire/emergency alarms. Senator Robert Till and Senator Francis Sheehan suggested changes which were agreed to. The Senate endorsed sending the letter. Professor Kaplowitz said she would also send a copy to the head of the HEO Council and the president of the Student Council, as a courtesy.

7. Discussion about a proposal to align JJ's tuition payment rules with those of other senior colleges, such as Brooklyn College, that require payment of tuition or an approved alternative payment plan, before attendance in classes is permitted

The Senate decided to table this item upon hearing VP Matos' answer to Senator Sheehan's question about this issue.

8. New Business

Senator Elton Becket asked whether we should send an additional letter to the faculty about they and their students should do if we have an active shooter situation. President Kaplowitz said that Director Diego Redondo told he will be providing active shooter training and then he will conduct an active shooter drill. She suggested that after the drill, the Senate discuss whether a letter is warranted. Most senators said they had never had active shooter training:

two said they had such training five years ago at the college by a FBI agent; three others had received it at the college.

Senator Ned Benton informed the Senate that CUNY's First Quarter Financial Report for July-September 2023 had just been released; he shared the document with the Senate and pointed out the most important aspects:

- Page 4 shows JJCCJ with a \$5.9 million projected year-end balance for this year, but that is all that is left of our reserves. Four CUNY campuses are projected to close this year in deficit.
- Page 5 shows our structural operating deficit: \$11 million this year if one-time funds are not considered. We have the fourth largest campus deficit in CUNY, after BMCC, York, and Brooklyn.
- Every CUNY senior college, and all but one community college, has a structural deficit.
- FY 2025 will be similar or worse, with perhaps \$5.9 million in reserves to carry over to offset the deficit unless something changes.
- Page 16 shows our Fall 2023 enrollments down 1% compared to F22 and down 9% compared to F21.
- Page 18 shows our tuition revenue this year to be \$1.6 million below target – 2% below our enrollment target.
- Page 19 shows our FY 2023 Q1 tuition revenues 1% below tuition revenues for FY 2022.
- Page 21 shows our fall 2023 full time staffing up 13 positions compared to fall 2021.
- Page 22 shows our fall 2023 full-time faculty up 14 positions compared to fall 2021.

Senator Benton concluded that CUNY is projected to end the current FY 2024 with \$95 million in reserves to carry over against a \$128 million structural deficit in FY 2025 if the FY 2024 structural deficit is not somehow remedied.

Senator Chevy Alford told the Senate that at the Town Meeting the previous day, Professor Gloria Browne-Marshall (LPS) reported that she has had a disruptive student in her class this semester and what she described as an unsatisfactory response by the administration.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Provided by K. Kaplowitz