

Faculty Senate Minutes #269

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

3:15 PM

Room 630 T

Present (31): Teresa Booker, Marvie Brooks, Orlanda Brugnola, James Cauthen, Effie Cochran, Edward Davenport, Robert DeLucia, Kirk Dombrowski, Janice Dunham, Joshua Freilich, Konstantinos Georgatos, Elisabeth Gitter, Heath Grant, Carol Groneman, Jennifer Groscup, Jennifer Jackiw, Karen Kaplowitz, Kwando Kinshasa, Tom Litwack, Vincent Maiorino, James Malone, Evan Mandery, Rick Richardson, Jodie Roure, Marilyn Rubin, Francis Sheehan, Liliana Soto-Fernandez, Thalia Vrachopoulos, Robin Whitney, Susan Will, Kathryn Wylie-Marques

Absent (6): Andrea Balis, P. J. Gibson, Judith Hawkins, John Matteson, Edward Paulino, Alisse Waterston

Guests: Professors Adrian Bordoni, Jose Luis Morin, Maureen O'Connor

Agenda

1. Report and Announcements from the chair
2. Approval of Minutes #268 of the November 3, 2004, meeting
3. Update about Proposal by the Administration to restructure the academic administration
4. Nomination of faculty to serve on the President's Committee on Critical Choices
5. Discussion of the Draft Strategic Plan required by Middle States
6. New business

1. Report and Announcements from the chair

Senators Francis Sheehan and James Cauthen were thanked for teaching Better Teaching Seminar workshops, sponsored by the Faculty Senate, on using Turnitin.com, the plagiarism prevention service the College now subscribes to at the recommendation of the Faculty Senate. The Library computer classroom has 24 stations and all seats are already reserved for the Better Teaching Seminar workshops on November 17 and November 18. Reservations are still being accepted for the workshop on November 23, but it is filling up quickly.

Three John Jay students – Luz Gonzalez, Andre Lindsay, and Yvette Brickhouse – were among the 10 winners in the CUNY-wide competitive and prestigious competition for CUNY Belle Zeller Scholarships.

2. Approval of Minutes #268 of the November 3, 2004, meeting

By a motion made and adopted, Minutes #268 of the November 3, 2004, meeting were approved.

3. Update about administration Proposal to restructure the academic administration

President Kaplowitz reported that she, Vice President Kirk Dombrowski, and Professors Harold Sullivan and Ned Benton met with President Travis and senior members of the administration on November 8, November 12, as well as earlier today, about the administration's proposal to restructure the academic administration. She reported that President Travis and Provost Wilson continue to want to proceed with the planned restructuring, despite the faculty's widespread disagreement with it. Like the Senate, which unanimously voted on November 3 its disagreement with the proposed restructuring, the Council of Chairs also unanimously voted its opposition to it. Another meeting with President Travis on this issue is planned.

Senator James Malone said he believes that this kind of restructuring would require an amendment of the College's Charter. President Kaplowitz said she absolutely agrees, adding that she had come to that same conclusion. She said she will advise President Travis about the need for a Charter Amendment when they next meet. Vice President Dombrowski said that the faculty leadership has asked the administration to provide a rationale for the proposed humanities, social sciences, and forensic studies deanships – and for the decision about which academic departments would be allocated to each division – but this rationale has not yet been received nor has an analysis of the budgetary implications of the additional positions that would result if the plan were implemented.

4. Nomination of faculty to serve on the President's Committee on Critical Choices on the associate degree program and on liberal arts/humanities majors [Attachment A]

President Travis supports the Senate's recommendations that task forces study and issue a report about the associate degree programs and about liberal arts/humanities majors [Attachment A] but he has decided that there shall be one task force, rather than two, and that this single task force shall study and issue a report on both issues and shall be called the President's Committee on Critical Choices. He is asking a former dean at the New School, who is now a consultant, to chair the Committee so as to provide nonpartisan direction. Also, President Travis has proposed that the Committee comprise five administrators, five faculty, and three students, with the addition of several staff, including OIR Director Gail Hauss, who will staff the committee. The five administrators are Provost Basil Wilson, Vice President for Student Development Roger Witherspoon, Dean Richard Saulnier, Dean Rubie Malone, and Legal Counsel Rosemarie Maldonado.

However, President Travis does not agree with the Senate's proposal that the Committee should hold open hearings but says that once the Committee has written its report and that report has been distributed College-wide, which is envisioned as happening by April, open hearings can be held.

President Kaplowitz opened nominations for the five faculty members on the Committee on Critical Choices, noting that she has been informed that it is important that those elected be available

to attend meetings during January intersession as well as during the Spring semester.

The following faculty were nominated at the Senate meeting: Professors Desmond Arias, Blanche Wiesen Cook, Jannette Domingo, Janice Dunham, Eli Faber, Robert Hair, Andrew Karmen, Kwando Kinshasa, Sondra Leftoff, Tom Litwack, Richard Lovely, Evan Mandery, Jerry Markowitz, John Matteson, Jose Luis Morin, John Pittman, Antony Simpson, Timothy Stevens, and Thalia Vrachopoulos. (Several other faculty who were also nominated and who were in attendance at the meeting declined the nomination.) The Senate agreed that nominations will be open until Tuesday, November 23, at 12 noon. The Council of Chairs, which may also make nominations at the invitation of the Faculty Senate, is meeting on November 17.

A motion was made and carried to require written statements from all candidates and to authorize the Executive Committee to determine decisions necessary for the election. Also a motion was made and carried to recommend to President Travis that Professors Karen Kaplowitz and Harold Sullivan, in their capacities as the elected heads of the Faculty Senate and of the Council of Chairs be *ex officio* members of the Committee.

5. Discussion of the Draft Strategic Plan required by Middle States by April 1

The draft Strategic Plan, the draft Facilities Plan, and the draft Outcomes Assessment plan have been distributed to the College community. Comments are to be sent to Dean Rubie Malone, Chair of the Comprehensive Planning Committee, by December 1.

The Middle States Commission reaccreditation of John Jay was predicated on Middle States' requirement that John Jay file planning documents by April 1,2005, on three areas: strategic planning, facilities planning, and outcomes assessment planning. All three must also be integrated with budget implementation plans.

The reason for this requirement by Middle States is that 10 years ago, Middle States said John Jay must engage in planning. In response John Jay created a Comprehensive Planning Committee. But virtually no planning took place. Then the most recent Middle States process identified not only a lack of planning but a failure to implement Middle States' mandate that we plan, a mandate issued 10 years earlier.

The Middle States letter was sent to the College in July 2003. The work that produced the draft documents, which are not complete but which have been distributed by Dean of Planning Rubie Malone, first began in earnest a year later, in June 2004. The co-chairs of the three committees are:

Professors Tom Litwack and Andrew Karmen: Strategic Plan Committee
Professor Ned Benton and VP Robert Pignatello: Facilities Plan Committee
Professors Marilyn Rubin and Maureen O'Connor: Assessment Plan Committee

The Assessment Plan at this point is really a proposal as to how the assessment plan would be organized; the assessment document can not be completed until the Strategic Plan and the Facilities Plan are vetted by the College community because assessment is how the implementation of each aspect of the Plan is to be measured but first the Plans have to be more fully advanced.

Because the work on the planning documents was done during the summer – because of the

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delay in the start of the process and the April 1,2005, deadline set by Middle States – all those engaged in the work agreed that as soon as possible the draft documents would be disseminated throughout the College for comment.

Because President Travis understandably wanted to see the draft documents, the process was put on hold until he could review them. He did so and made no changes and suggested no changes. The Comprehensive Planning Committee had decided to disseminate the draft documents after the President had read them. The Comprehensive Planning Committee met on October 28, a meeting which President Travis attended. The CPC voted, as had been the plan of those who worked during the summer, to immediately disseminate the three documents for comment by the College community and decided to require comments by December 1.

The reason for the December 1 deadline for this stage of the process is because comments received by December 1 will be reviewed and incorporated as determined by the Committee. Then a second draft will be issued which will again be disseminated College-wide. That will be discussed in February by the Senate and by other bodies. Then the final version will go to the College Council for its action in March. Then the document is to be transmitted to Middle States by the April 1 deadline.

Senator Tom Litwack emphasized that the Draft Strategic Plan is a very incomplete draft which the Strategic Planning Committee and the Comprehensive Planning Committee continue to work on. He requested, as co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, that the Senate first decide whether the Goals for the College which the Draft Plan sets forth are goals acceptable to the Senate members.

Senator James Cauthen asked whether the goals, objectives, and strategies are all still open for discussion by the faculty. Senator Litwack said that they are. Senator Effie Cochran said that many Senators, including she, only today received a copy of the draft Strategic Plan from the Office of Dean for Planning Rubie Malone, even though the document was submitted to Dean Malone in early September. She asked how the Senate members can be expected to have any discussion, much less a substantive discussion, of the document in the short time that was for reviewing it.

President Kaplowitz said that even though comments are requested by December 1, the Senate can continue to devote subsequent meetings to discussing the Draft Plan, in its various iterations, given that the College Council has until March to vote on the document, which must be received by the Middle States Commission by April 1st. Senator Betsy Gitter said that most of the goals are noncontroversial so she thinks anyone with objections to any of the proposed goals should put these forward today. Senator Kwando Kinshasa said he had first seen this document today and he has many questions about how this document came into being.

Senator Marilyn Rubin, a member of the CPC and of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and a co-chair of the Outcomes Committee, said that to her knowledge there is no hidden agenda behind the Draft Plan or behind anything the Draft Plan contains. Rather, it was drafted as a document which the College community could and should discuss and react to. Senator Litwack added that there were many meetings and many email communications throughout the summer among a faculty group partially chosen by the Provost and partially chosen by the faculty members on the CPC. Senator James Malone said that his department is now discussing the document to see how the counseling faculty could implement the goals put forward in it. He said it is not our task to do anything today, but rather to go back to our departments and report to them, and to make sure the departments are discussing the plan. Senator Evan Mandery said that the language of the proposal is so abstract that many times it is impossible to agree, disagree, or even determine what is meant. He

quoted the goal of “having the optimal number of students.” He said everyone will have a different idea about what is optimal.

Professor Jose Morin said that he is a member of the CPC and of the Strategic Planning Committee and he does have strong feelings about many of the issues in the document. He said that his views had obviously not prevailed because they are not reflected in the document. This is why he is concerned about the short time frame for discussion and review. He said the goals may look innocuous, but we need to know more about what is behind these goals. He added that he does not know of any students who have seen this draft document or who have had a chance to discuss it, and he thinks student input is important when we are discussing possibly changing the student composition of the College.

Senator Kinshasa said he is glad to hear Professor Morin’s comments and said that, like Professor Morin, he is concerned that worthy goals, like making John Jay a premier research institution, may come at the expense of other goals, such as providing open access to a diverse group of urban students. Senator Jodie Roure said that we need to agree upon a plan for discussing the goals and that we need to decide whether this necessitates the scheduling of an additional Senate meeting.

Senator Litwack said, in answer to concerns about the time frame, that his committee had submitted the draft document to Dean Rubie Malone on September 8th, so he is surprised to hear that some Senators are first seeing the document today. Senator Litwack also said that the only reason there is time pressure now is that Middle States has given us an April 1st, 2005, deadline. He said he does not believe that Middle States would object to extending the deadline, and that at the last meeting of the CPC he had, in fact, proposed that an extension be requested of Middle States. He made that proposal, he explained, because he does not think it is possible to finish the Plan and have it approved by April 1. President Kaplowitz said she had consulted about this with President Travis, who told her that he is not willing to ask Middle States for an extension.

Senator Francis Sheehan said he agrees with Senator Roure that we may need to plan an additional, special Senate meeting, because we have to meet the April deadline and to do so we have to have more discussion. Senator Kinshasa said that he is concerned that this document shifts the mission that CUNY has historically had to provide open access to a broad swath of urban students. He cited language advocating recruiting the best-prepared students.

Senator Kathryn Wylie-Marques said that perhaps it is best to meet the Middle States deadline of April 1, even if the Plan is not complete, because we are in the middle of possible fundamental changes to the College, such as reconsidering the associate degree and liberal arts majors, and there is no way we can put everything necessary and possible into the document by April 1. So perhaps it is best to submit a preliminary document with the assumption that we would continue our discussion about all these issues. Senator Rubin said she agrees with Senator Wylie-Marques, noting that her own work on the Plan is conducted with the assumption that discussion of these issues would be on-going. She added that she is, however, disturbed when people speak about “hidden agendas.”

President Kaplowitz said meaningful discussions by the Senate are dependent upon Senators (and other interested faculty) providing proposed alternate language for the Plan. She also said there is no way to schedule a meeting in time to meet the December 1 deadline and suggested that the Senate request from Dean Malone an extension of that December 1 deadline. Senator Rubin agreed, saying that she had predicted that the December 1 deadline, which she called an artificial deadline, would be too early. The Senate agreed to schedule and attend an additional meeting on Friday,

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December 3, from 9:30 am to 12 noon.

Senator Litwack said he believes there is a tremendous diversity of opinion on the question of the composition of the student body and that there is no chance, therefore, that we could agree on a policy about this matter. In addition, he added, there is no point in trying to do so since the President is establishing a Committee on Critical Choices to discuss this issue and the issue of humanities majors. He proposed dropping the contentious issue of enrollment from the Strategic Plan.

Senator Teresa Booker said it would help our December 3 discussion if everyone sent their recommended language changes to one central person who could make a Power-Point presentation to the Senate and she offered to be that person. The deadline for submitting comments to Senator Booker was set for November 26 at 5 pm. Senator Sheehan offered to prepare paper copies of those statements for distribution at the meeting for those who like to work with paper texts.

Senator Robert Delucia said it is very important to hear what changes other faculty and departments want to propose. Senator Rubin said that the Senators who are representing departments should consult with their departments.

6. New business [Attachment B]

Senator Francis Sheehan, explaining that he is the faculty advisor of a student club, moved that the Senate study the issue of certification of student clubs and the role of the faculty advisors of clubs, in preparation for a possible agenda item to be submitted by the Senate to the College Council for action by the Council. He reviewed the situation of the Forensic Science Society, for which he serves as faculty advisor, and he distributed a letter, dated November 15, from the club president, Ms. Meghan Miller, to President Travis, which was copied to him, as faculty advisor, and to Vice President Witherspoon and to Senate President Kaplowitz [Attachment B]. The motion was adopted by unanimous vote.

By a motion made and adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm.

Submitted by,

Edward Davenport
Recording Secretary
&

James Cauthen
Associate Recording Secretary
&

Jodie Roure
Associate Recording Secretary

ATTACHMENT A

The following are the Faculty Senate's recommendations for task forces about the associate degree program and about liberal arts/humanities majors: from Faculty Senate Minutes #265 of the September 22, 2004, meeting:

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate recommend to President Travis that a task force on the associate degree programs be created; that this task force collect and analyze data and identify and analyze the relevant issues regarding the associate degree programs and identify the various options possible; that the task force *not* make any recommendations but rather provide a written report that provides an analysis of the positive and negative consequences of the College's acting or not acting on each option; that this written report be the basis for discussions by various College bodies and in different forums; that the task force make the process open and inclusive and meet with individuals and groups who request such meetings and invite appropriate individuals and groups to meet with the task force and hold open hearings; that the written report be the basis ultimately of proposals that will be generated as a result of the report, proposals that will be duly discussed and voted upon; that the President provide the task force with staff.

Resolved, That the Faculty Senate recommend to President Travis that a task force on liberal arts majors be created; that this task force collect and analyze data and identify and analyze the relevant issues regarding liberal arts majors and identify the various options possible; that the task force *not* make any recommendations but rather provide a written report that provides an analysis of the positive and negative consequences of the College's acting or not acting on each option; that this written report be the basis for discussions by various College bodies and in different forums; that the task force make the process open and inclusive and meet with individuals and groups who request such meetings and invite appropriate individuals and groups to meet with the task force and hold open hearings; that the written report be the basis ultimately of proposals that will be generated as a result of the report, proposals that will be duly discussed and voted upon; that the President provide the task force with staff.

ATTACHMENT B
FORENSIC SCIENCE SOCIETY
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

November 15, 2004

To: President Jeremy Travis

From: Meghan Miller, President, Forensic Science Society

Re: Denial of Forensic Science Society's Certification / Apparently Forged Documents

I wish to inform you of a problem with the student club certification process this semester that needs to be addressed urgently so the college does not negatively impact the outstanding work that our society does for the Forensic Science students and for the Forensic Science program in general. Also, failure to be certified as a club will have a lasting impact on our members' resumes, particularly the resumes of its officers, who want and need to be competitive in future employment opportunities, where such extracurricular activities such as the Forensic Science Society may make the difference. Vice-president Witherspoon is not available today so I, on the behalf of the (uncertified) Forensic Science Society's Executive Board, am calling on you to ensure there is reasonableness in a process we as students are required to financially support through Student Activity fees, but are being barred from participation.

As President of the Forensic Science Society, I read the certification material distributed and submitted the required documentation including contact data with my cell phone and address. We have a budget date-stamped by the Office of Student Activities on September 8, 2004. The problem seems to be that we acted timely in submitting our materials but the Committee on Clubs was not organized to receive and act upon the material for reasons that are not relevant to this memo; subsequently the Committee on Clubs established new submission rules that rendered our timely submission incomplete.

What is particularly troubling is that an October 20, 2004, denial letter has been altered to justify our being denied. Attached you will find a letter dated October 20, 2004, signed by Associate Justice Rivera (attachment A), containing two items found defective in our early submission. Today, we were told the letter from Associate Justice Rivera was not signed by him and were given a different (but unsigned) letter dated October 20, 2004, that contains six defective items, including a claim we failed to submit contact information (see attachment B). That claim is very significant, in that we are being told we failed to timely respond to the October 20, 2004, letter, which has an arbitrary October 22, 2004 (two day) deadline. By now claiming the contact information was missing (which was not claimed in the original signed letter), timeliness on our part becomes an issue.

There seems to be a concerted effort to keep the Forensic Science Society from being certified, including, perhaps, someone forging Associate Justice Rivera's signature on a letter he claims he did not sign and/or the subsequent substitution of another denial letter with the same date. There needs to be reasonableness to the process. Clubs, whose members are required to pay student activity fees, should not be unreasonably denied the right to participate. Therefore, if this matter cannot be resolved, we ask that you place this matter on the agenda of the December College Council meeting. I look forward to anything you can do timely to resolve this peculiar situation. I may be reached at 347-256-6818 or mmiller@jjay.cuny.edu. Thank you.

cc: FSS Faculty Advisor Francis X. Sheehan, ext. 895 1
Vice-president Roger Witherspoon
Faculty Senate President Karen Kaplowitz