

Faculty Senate Minutes #274

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

3:15 PM

Room 630 T

Present (31): Andrea Balis, Teresa Booker, Marvie Brooks, Orlanda Brugnola, Edward Davenport, Virginia Diaz, Kirk Dombrowski, Janice Dunham, Joshua Freilich, P. J. Gibson, Elisabeth Gitter, Heath Grant, Carol Groneman, Jennifer Groscup, Jennifer Jackiw, Karen Kaplowitz, Tom Litwack, Vincent Maiorino, James Malone, John Matteson, Edward Paulino, Rick Richardson, Jodie Roure, Marilyn Rubin, Francis Sheehan, Liliana Soto-Fernandez, Thalia Vrachopoulos, Alisse Waterston, Robin Whitney, Susan Will, Kathryn Wylie-Marques

Absent (6): James Cauthen, Effie Cochran, Robert DeLucia, Konstantinos Georgatos, Kwando Kinshasa, Evan Mandery

Guest: Professor Ned Benton

Agenda

1. Report and Announcements
2. Approval of Minutes #273 of the February 23, 2005, meeting
3. Decision about the process for electing faculty to serve on the Search Committee for the Dean of Undergraduate Studies
4. Discussion: Draft Comprehensive Action Plan
5. New business

1. Report and Announcements

At the February 24 meeting of the College Council, the two student members of the College Personnel Committee, who have been serving on the Personnel Committee since September, although never elected until now, were elected by the College Council, having been nominated by the Student Council. They are Ms. Ericka Adams and Mr. Simon Lee.

President Kaplowitz reported on a meeting she attended an hour earlier to which she had been invited by President Travis. The meeting was with CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Selma Botman, who was the Faculty Senate's guest in December, and was also attended by Provost Basil Wilson, Dean James Levine, Dean Rubie Malone, and Acting Dean of Undergraduate Studies Larry Sullivan.

2. Approval of Minutes #273 of the February 23, 2005, meeting

By a motion duly made and adopted, Minutes #273 of the February 23 meeting were approved.

3. Decision about the process for electing faculty to serve on the Search Committee for Dean of Undergraduate Studies

The Senate approved the following procedure, which was recommended by the Senate Executive Committee, for electing the six faculty who will serve on the Search Committee for the Dean of Undergraduate Studies: the Faculty Senate will nominate members of the Faculty Senate and the Council of Chairs will nominate Chairs. The Senators and Chairs will receive a secret, written, mail ballot and each Senator and each Chair will vote for three Senators and for three Chairs. The procedure was approved by unanimous vote.

The other Search Committee members are Provost Basil Wilson, who is chairing the Search Committee; Dean of Research and Graduate Studies James Levine; Vice President for Student Development Roger Witherspoon; and three students.

Nominations were opened: Kirk Dombrowski, Karen Kaplowitz, and James Malone were nominated and accepted nomination.

4. Discussion: Draft Comprehensive Action Plan (CAF)

The Senate, by a motion made by Senator Betsy Gitter and approved by unanimous vote, expressed its profound appreciation to the faculty who worked on the Comprehensive Action Plan.

Senator Rick Richardson noted that the Plan contains various statements about adjunct faculty needing support but, he said, it is the lack of space which is the primary obstacle to adjuncts performing their duties. When 8 or 9 adjuncts have to share one office, as is the case in the Mathematics Department, for example, it is impossible for adjuncts to hold office hours, so this deficiency should be specifically mentioned in the Facilities Plan. Professor Ned Benton said that even after Phase II is completed we will be short of space and we will need a Phase III. So it was thought inappropriate to put this into the Strategic Plan. Senator Litwack added that the problem of space is one of the most intractable problems. Even if we get more money, we do not automatically get more space. CUNY has to be persuaded to give additional facilities to us.

President Kaplowitz noted that she and Professor Ned Benton, as the faculty members on the Phase II Planning Committee, had successfully argued against having a bullpen system for adjunct faculty, which had been the approach proposed by the architects and by CUNY officials for Phase II and which is the way Baruch's new vertical campus building is designed. Professor Benton said at this time it is impossible to do better than to make a strong argument for why we need more space and he spoke of the need to build Phase III on the site of North Hall after we vacate North Hall and move into Phase II.

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President Kaplowitz noted that there is one paragraph in the Draft Plan which appears in italics. This is Section 7.2.1 and she asked Senator Litwack to discuss this. Senator Litwack explained that this section provides that decisions about the expenditures of non-tax levy funds will be made in consultation with elected faculty leaders and appropriate governance bodies. However, the administration has not agreed to this provision and, as a compromise, because the faculty have insisted on the inclusion of this language, this section has been placed in italics to indicate that it has not yet been agreed upon.

Senator Litwack recounted the Senate's lengthy and persistent efforts to obtain information about the expenditure of non-tax levy funds, which was finally achieved a few years ago. However, the quarterly reports about these expenditures have not been received since August, since, that is, President Travis began his tenure.

Senator Carol Groneman asked whether a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request would provide us with this information. President Kaplowitz said it would but she suggested that we should first ascertain whether the cessation of these reports is deliberate or inadvertent. Furthermore, we need to make certain that President Travis knows this is public information, she said.

Senator Litwack said he hopes that both the language of the Plan and the resumption of the non-tax levy reports can be resolved, the latter without filing a FOIA request, although if that is necessary he and Karen are prepared to file such a request.

Senator Carol Groneman made a motion, which was seconded by Senator Betsy Gitter, that the Senate considers it necessary that the expenditure of non-tax levy monies by the College be transparent and that there be consultation with elected faculty leaders about expenditures of both tax levy and non-tax levy monies and also that it is the position of the Faculty Senate that there should be inclusion of language about this in the Comprehensive Action Plan. This motion was approved by unanimous vote.

By a motion made and adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Submitted by,

Edward Davenport
Recording Secretary

&

Kirk Dombrowski
Vice President

&

Jodie Roure
Associate Recording Secretary