

Faculty Senate Minutes #365

November 23, 2010

3:20 PM

Room 630 T

Present (37): Andrea Balis, Spiros Bakiras, Elton Beckett, Marvie Brooks, Erica Burleigh, Elise Champeil, Sergei Cheloukhine, Demi Cheng, Kathleen Collins, Lyell Davies, Virginia Diaz-Mendoza, James DiGiovanna, Jennifer Dysart, Beverly Frazier, Terry Furst, Robert Garot, Jay Gates, Lior Gideon, Norman Groner, Maki Haberfeld, Jay Hamilton, Karen Kaplowitz, Tom Litwack, Evan Mandery, Vincent Maiorino, Nivedita Majumdar, Xerxes Malki, Isabel Martinez, David Munns, Paul Narkunas, Richard Perez, Frank Pezzella, Rick Richardson, Staci Strobl, Fritz Umbach, Valerie West

Absent (13): William Allen, Ben Bierman, Edgardo Diaz Diaz, DeeDee Falkenbach, Katie Gentile, Olivera Jokic, Roz Myers, Richard Ocejo, Raul Rubio, Richard Schwester, Francis Sheehan, Pat Tovar, Monica Varsanyi

Invited Guest: President Jeremy Travis

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Announcements & Reports
3. Approval of Minutes #364 of the November 10, 2010, meeting
4. Proposal for a Community Hour: Follow-up
5. Invited guest: President Jeremy Travis

1. **Adoption of the agenda.** Approved.

2. **Announcements.** Noted.

3. **Adoption of Minutes #364 of the November 10, 2010, meeting.** Approved.

4. **Community Period: Report on response of President Travis and senior administrators to the Faculty Senate recommendations**

President Kaplowitz reported that she met with Provost Bowers, VP Eanes, VP Saulnier, and President Travis to brief them about the proposal for a community period that the Faculty Senate developed and approved at its last meeting. The Senate's proposal calls for a community period

Mondays through Fridays of 90 minutes in length beginning at 12:15 PM, with first class period beginning at 8:00 AM. (The proposal was accompanied by a series of provisos.)

Provost Bowers and VP Eanes each agreed in principle that the Senate's proposal was excellent but were persuaded by VP Saulnier criticisms of it. VP Saulnier's main opposition is that 9th period would begin at 9:00 PM and end at 10:15 PM. VP Saulnier does not think students will enroll in the 9th period if it is so late and that, in turn, will make it impossible for him to meet the College's enrollment goals and thus will have a deleterious effect on the College's budget. He also thinks it would be a wrong message to 80th Street, when we are making the case for more space, to have two hours in the middle of the day when no classes are held. Furthermore, he thinks the Senate's proposal is for a community period that is too early in the day and will result in students treating the community period as a lunch period and they will leave the campus for lunch instead of being engaged in College activities. VP Eanes also expressed this latter concern.

Provost Bowers and President Kaplowitz together developed a compromise proposal two hours before today's Senate meeting and as a result, President Kaplowitz explained, she has not had an opportunity to consult with anyone on the Senate about it and has no idea how it will be received. The compromise proposal is that the community period would be one hour – which is a sufficient length of time for club activities – and the class period subsequent to the community period would be taught by only adjunct faculty; in this way, full-time faculty could attend department meetings, College Council meetings, Senate meetings, and other important activities that would extend beyond the one hour community period. VP Saulnier said he loved the compromise, VP for Student Development Berenecea Johnson Eanes said it was fine with her, and President Travis said it has his support.

President Kaplowitz also reported that the response to the Senate's proviso for its support that a plan be developed to engage students in campus life was that there is currently no one employed at the College who is a specialist in student campus life. The interim director of student activities is not a professional in this field. Also, the plan is to engage students over a period of years by block registering first-year so that they have classes before and after the community period, thus ensuring their presence on campus during that time period.

Senators responded to the compromise proposal negatively. Some Senators said that the community period should also be enjoyed by adjuncts. President Kaplowitz noted that only a fraction of the adjuncts will be teaching during that period; indeed, many, many adjuncts will not be assigned to teach then. Other Senators said that there should not be a class period when only adjuncts teach. Others said evening students will not be able to partake of community hour plus they will be negatively affected by having their school day extended. On the other hand, it was noted that the proposed compromise enables evening students to take three classes, rather than only two, in the evening. A Senator suggested that the proposed new start time for 7th period would be beneficial given that many students arrive late to the current 5 o'clock start time for that period.

5. Invited Guest: President Jeremy Travis

President Kaplowitz explained that the Senate was discussing the community hour but there had been opposition to the compromise proposal and there had not been sufficient time to resolve this issue today. She asked if the final decision about the community hour can be extended until after the Senate's all day meeting on December 10. He said that he was certain that would be acceptable but that he would consult with VP Saulnier to make certain. A Senator criticized the compromise proposal because it would take full time faculty out of the classroom for an entire class period. A Senator suggested that perhaps a waiver could be put into place for faculty who needed to teach during that post-community period for personal reasons. President Travis assured the Senate that there would be an assessment of the community period once implemented. Senators were interested in the opinion of the students about this issue. President Travis said that the students are concerned about a lack of opportunity for students to gather together. Students know what is available at the other senior colleges in terms of a community hour and they recognize that it is not available here; John Jay is the only CUNY senior college without a community period; only one community college and no senior college has no community period.

President Travis spoke about how pleased he was with his discussion during his last visit with the Senate about sexual harassment at the College. He said he is unsatisfied with the fact that CUNY has no policy about sexual relationships between students and faculty or between students and staff or between people who have a supervisory position in relation to others. He spoke with the Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs about this and the Vice Chancellor suggested that John Jay's Faculty Senate might want to propose a policy for the University to adopt. President Travis said he would make VP and Counsel Rosemarie Maldonado and Counsel Silvia Montalban available as staff to a committee, if the Senate were to decide to create one to look at policies at other colleges throughout the country and to share this information with the Senate to take whatever action it might decide to. A senator asked whether there is a University policy about bullying. President Travis said that a Task Force on Student Wellness and Anti-bullying was just formed and that he expected that good things would come of this. He said he hopes to create a campus that is explicitly welcoming to the LGTB community and that this was very much part of his address at student orientation this fall.

President Travis reported that the CUNY Board of Trustees approved a 5% tuition increase for the Spring 2011 semester. The Chancellor said that the University does not need legislative approval as this action is an effort to meet a revenue target. The Board also approved an additional 2% tuition increase request for the Fall 2011 that does need legislative approval. He added that an additional 3% tuition increase is being considered for the Fall 2011 semester. He reported that there is a continuous deficit in the state budget and a billion dollar hole that needs to be filled and that there is a hundred million dollar cut to the University budget expected for next year. All of this is unfolding within the next two months and the 5% tuition increase will help us this year. We don't know how this will affect future allocations, however. The springtime conversation will be how to get ready for this situation. Budget plans envision the increased revenues, increased spring

enrollment and summer enrollment, and it includes what has been done in terms of spending cuts that have been exercised at the College thus far. John Jay On-line and additional Summer and Winter sessions are sources of revenues for the College. Over the latter half of the Spring, we will be putting together a budget. Senators asked about fundraising efforts by the College and President Travis reported that a half million dollars had been raised at the gala this month, all the profits from which will go to student scholarships. He spoke about the fundraising initiative connected to the new building. President Travis concluded by saying that with the budget in this condition, the key questions are which vacant positions will be filled and which will stay or go unfilled. One position that must be filled before moving into the new building is that of director of student activities, he added.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.