

**ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK
UNIVERSITY SENATE - MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

Monday, April 11, 2022
University Center Suite D and Webex

Present: Ms. Laiba Amin, Dr. William Boyle, Dr. Joan DeBello, Dr. Marilyn Dono-Koulouris(Webex), Rev. Patrick Flanagan, Dr. Almerinda Forte, Prof. Caroline Fuchs, Dr. Anne Galvin, Dr. Granville Ganter, Dean Glenn Gerstner, Ms. Sharon Hewitt Watkins, Dr. Diane Heith, Dr. Dianella Howarth, W. Jean Kwon(Webex) Prof. Martha Mackey, Dr. Kathleen Marks, Dr. Donald McClure, Dr. Seung Eun McDevitt, Dr. Simon Møller, Prof. William Murphy, Prof. Maria Pirrone, Dr. Matthew Pucciarelli, Dr. Alejandro Quintana, Dr. Francis Schanne, Fr. Brian Shanley O.P., Dr. Lequez Spearman, Prof. Anthony Todman, Fr. Bernard Tracey, Dr. Ahmad Vakil, Ms. Keaton Wong.

Excused: Dr. Ivan Abel, Prof. Heather Ball, Dean John Conry, Interim Dean Gina Florio, Dr. Louis Gesualti, Dr. Gregory Hughes, Dr. Kathryn Hutchinson, Dr. Lauren Moskowitz, Dr. Alice Ramos, Dr. Susan Rosenberg, Dean Norean Sharpe.

Absent: Prof. Alla Baeva, Dr. Ching-Nan Chao, Dr. Charles Clark, Dr. Barbara Cozza, Prof. Ann Goldweber, Mr. Harrison Harvey, Dr. Ming-Hui Li, Dr. Stephen Llano, Prof. Margaret McGuinness, Dr. Elise Megehee, Ms. Alexandria Neri, Dr. James O'Keefe, Ms. Angela Randazzo, Prof. Anthony Sabino, Dr. Mostafa Sadoqi, Ms. Stafanie Scotto, Ms. Lauryn Simon, Dean Michael Simons, Mr. Ethan Snider, Dr. James Vorbach

Also Present: Dr. Christoforus Christoforou, Dr. Anne Ellen Geller(Webex), Dr. Roberta Hayes (Webex), Christine Kenny, Michael McLeod, Prof. Sharon Marshall, Eric Rienecker, Catherine Ruggeiri (Webex), Angela Saric, Dr. Sharon See, Linda Shannon, Kathleen Siano, Doug Trani, Ashley Walsh

Opening Prayer:

The meeting began at 3:19 p.m. Dr. Møller welcomed all in attendance. Student Senator Laiba Amin offered the opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes of February 14, 2022:

There were no comments or revisions received and the Minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

Core Curriculum Update:

Before Dr. Møller asked the standing committees to present, he advised that the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the new 39 credit University Core Curriculum and that the UCCC Ad-hoc Committee is working to finalize learning outcomes. Invitations will be sent shortly to invite proposals for courses.

Committee Reports:**By-Laws Committee:**

Dr. Granville Ganter thanked the UCCC for their work on the Core Curriculum. He reported that the By-Laws committee has been working to set up a “Senate Document Archive” for Senate documents to be stored and accessible. Two concerns arose:

- How to protect sensitive information.
- Which platform to use that can be easily removed if the University changes it. Canvas?

He will meet with Linda Shannon and Linda Romano (Marketing) after Commencement exercises to discuss possibilities. Dr. Ganter asked that any ideas or concerns be e-mailed directly to him.

Budget Committee:

Michael McLeod advised that the Budget Committee met on April 6th and April 7th, 2022, where he discussed Spring and Fall enrollment and revenue projections. He thanked everyone for their fiscally responsible budget management. He also focused on how resource demands are exceeding revenue and inflation will be a challenge for 2023. The committee is preparing a plan for Board of Trustee approval in May 2022.

Faculty Affairs Committee:

Dr. Christoforou advised that the committee members met on April 4th, 2022, where they discussed a program to facilitate the dissemination of St. John’s faculty’s publications in open-access outlets. Specifically, they discussed whether the establishment of “Read & Publish” agreements between the University and reputable publishers would benefit the faculty to increase the visibility of their research, attract more citations, have a global impact, and help elevate the research brand at St. John’s.

- Read and Publish agreements allow faculty associated with the participating institution to publish articles in open access journals at no cost to faculty or with a discounted article processing charge.
- The committee suggests exploring the views of faculty toward the establishment of “Read & Publish” agreements and whether such a program would be beneficial to St. John’s research.

Student Affairs Committee: No Report

Educational Programs & Development Committee: A written report was distributed in advance of the meeting but there was nobody present from this committee to offer the report at the meeting.

New Business/Updates:

Annual Report on Student Athletics: “Mental Health and the Student-Athlete Experience.”

Dr. Sharon See introduced herself as the Faculty Athletic Representative for St. John’s University. She acts as a liaison between the student athletes and faculty. Dr. See works closely with the Office of Student Services as well as with the Office of Compliance on academic matters. She advises all student athletes during orientation the importance for student athletes to introduce themselves to their professors and explain their time commitments. Besides Student-Athlete Orientation, she is also involved with Tutor Training and is the Vice Chair of the Big East FARs.

Eric Rienecker, Associate Athletic Director of Student Services, advised that the past few years have been like no other and said that the mental health of student athletes is of growing concern. He presented a power point that provided statistics surrounding this issue. Last year there were 8 medical withdrawals and most were related to mental health. Some student athletes are thriving, yet many are depressed and overwhelmed. He introduced two student athletes to provide an inside perspective on the pressures of being a student athlete.

Angela Saric is a current Senior majoring in Toxicology, who is also Captain of the Softball team and a member of the President’s Society. She spoke about the pressures of attending regular advisor meetings, 6- hour study halls, missing classes for travel sports, and not getting enough sleep. Through all of this she has maintained her 4.0 average and also monitors the social media surrounding her team.

Ashley Walsh is a Senior majoring in Psychology and is a thrower on the Track and Field team. She spoke candidly about her struggles which caused her to withdraw halfway through the Fall 2020 semester, just to return with a herniated disc in her back. She switched her major from Biology to Psychology. She spoke of her depression and anxiety, failing classes, panic attacks at practice due to work overload, and the stigma of student athletes having to be so strong. She came through this wanting to help her student-athlete friends by participating in a voluntary support group. This mental health support panel was created as a vehicle where student athletes can talk about their struggles and know they are not alone. This support panel should be expanded to include all students because it is so helpful. St. John’s University now has a licensed family therapist that sees 40-60 students per week!

Doug Trani, Associate Athletic Director for Compliance.

- **“Name, Image, and Likeness.”** As of July 1, 2021, all student-athletes at St. John’s University may earn compensation for the use of their publicity rights, including your name, image, and likeness (NIL). Now, student athletes can use their abilities to work with businesses to earn money. This comes with benefits for the students but also may present challenges and his office is working to educate the students and our community. Some key points:
 - Such compensation **may not** be provided in exchange for athletic performance or attendance at St. John’s University.
 - International students on F1 visas cannot participate in NIL activities.
 - So far, about 20 of our domestic student athletes have signed NIL agreements and this number will continue to grow.

- If students sign on their own, they must disclose this to St. John's within 5 days of signing.
- Student athletes are permitted to hire an NIL agent for themselves.
- Some examples of NIL-Related activities are Autographs, Personal appearances, Representation in video games, Social media endorsements, and sale of merchandise.

In order to help our athletes, we created St. John's UNLIMITED which partners with the INFLUENCER app that houses pictures of athletes taken at an event. If someone is going to use a St. John's logo, they need to obtain permission first. They report this to us by disclosing, through the INFLUENCER app, their signed agreement. St. John's Unlimited created a Minor, called Sports Leadership and Branding, centered around NIL. In January, the Influencer opened up a Local Exchange so local Businesses can contact student athletes directly for opportunities.

- Doug then moved on to **Institutional Control**. As a member of the NCAA and Big East Conference, it is our institution's responsibility to maintain compliance of our student-athlete programs consistent with the rules and regulations of the NCAA, Big East Conference, and University. We all share responsibility for this: Employees, administrators, faculty, coaches, and the student-athletes themselves. A few examples of faculty conduct that could result in an NCAA violation are offering special courses and/or assignments for student athletes only, offering incentives or course waivers, and treating student athletes differently from any other students. Not only could the athletes themselves be penalized for this, but so could the University. If anyone has any concerns regarding this, please report them to Dr. Sharon See. Lastly, Teamworks Travel Letters and Progress Reports help to identify who the student athletes are in the class.

Dr. Møller thanked the Athletic Team for their presentation and requested everyone to take this valuable information back to their departments.

Enrollment:

Dr. Møller stated that 1,618 students and their families attended Accepted Student Day on April 9th, 2022. This exceeded last year's virtual event and we also got many deposits on this day. Completed applications, 21,700, are 3% higher than what they were last year. Admitted students are at 19,600, up 4% from last year. All the numbers are moving in the right direction, but we have a long way to go.

Dr. Møller expressed his gratitude to everyone who is participating in the various enrollment initiatives. The Faculty Engagement Initiative, to drive yield through hand-written notes, has increased dramatically; last year faculty engaged with approx. 400 students through this initiative whilst this year more than 4,000 students have been contacted by a faculty member through a hand-written note. The Summer at St. John's: Explore and More Program for deposited students and the summer virtual sessions for parents are also coming along nicely.

Dr. Møller thanked everyone for their service, wished everyone good luck for the rest of the semester, and noted we would return in September.

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Kenny