

**ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK
UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING**

Monday, December 6, 2021 **(REVISED February 14, 2022)**
University Center, Suite D and WebEx

Present: Dr. Ivan Abel, Dr. Heather Ball, Dr. William Boyle, Dr. Barbara Cozza, Dr. Joan DeBello, Dr. Marilyn Dono-Koulouris, Interim Dean Gina Florio, Dr. Almerinda Forte, Prof. Caroline Fuchs, Dr. Diane Heith, Dr. Granville Ganter, Ms. Sharon Hewitt Watkins, Interim Dean Aliya Holmes, Dr. Dianella Howarth, Dr. Gregory Hughes, Dr. W. Jean Kwon, Prof. Martha Mackey, Dr. Donald McClure, Provost Simon Møller, Dr. Lauren Moskowitz, Prof. William Murphy, Prof. Maria Pirrone, Mr. Matthew Pucciarelli, Dr. Susan Rosenberg, Dr. Mostafa Sadoqi, Dr. Francis Schanne, Fr. Brian Shanley O.P., Dean Noreen Sharpe, Dean Michael Simons, Mr. Ethan Snider, Dr. Lequez Spearman, Fr. Bernard Tracey, Keaton Wong, J.D.

Excused: Prof. Alla Baeva, Dr. Chiang-nan Chao, Fr. Patrick Flanagan, Dean Glenn Gerstner, Dr. Ming-Hui Li, Dr. Kathleen Marks, Dr. Alice Ramos, Dr. Charles Traina, Dr. Ahmad Vakil

Absent: Ms. Laiba Amin, Dean Russell DiGate, Dr. Anne Galvin, Dr. Louis Gesualdi, Prof. Ann Goldweber, Mr. Harrison Harvey, Dr. Kathryn Hutchinson, Dr. Stephen Llano, Dr. Seung Eun McDevitt, Prof. Margaret (Peggy) McGuinness, Dr. Elise Megehee, Ms. Alexandria Neri, Dr. Aljandro Quintana, Ms. Angela Randazzo, Prof. Anthony Sabino, Ms. Lauryn Simon, Prof. Anthony Todman, Dr. James Vorbach

Also Present: Dr. Christoforos Christoforou, Dr. Phyllis Conn, Dr. Jeremy Cruz, Dr. Anne Geller, Dr. Jacqueline Grogan, Dr. Roberta Hayes, Ms. Joanne Llerandi, Prof. Sharon Marshall, Mr. Michael McLeod, Linda Shannon, J.D.

Opening Prayer

The meeting began at 3:20 p.m. Dr. Møller welcomed all in attendance. Dr. Barbara Cozza offered the opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes of September 27, 2021

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, September 27th were approved as distributed with a note added that the By-Laws should be distributed with the minutes from the meeting held on December 6, 2021.

Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: No Report

Budget Committee: The Budget Committee met on November 30, 2021. An update on the University's Fall 2021 enrollment and an overview of the FY22 operating budget was provided. Future challenges were also discussed including recovery from the pandemic's adverse impact on our enrollment and the continued and significant competition from both private and public

institutions as we approach the demographic cliff in the Northeast in 2025. A presentation on the budget will be offered at one of the spring meetings

Educational Programs and Development Committee – Dr. Susan Rosenberg provided the report in Dr. Raj Chetty's (Committee chair) absence. The EPDC met three times during the fall 2021 semester, with discussions focused on the revised draft of the University Core Curriculum.

Dr. Simon Møller and Dr. Phyllis Conn attended the December 3rd meeting of this committee to present and discuss the revised core curriculum. EPDC members questions and suggestions included involving student in the language about equity, diversity, anti-racism (especially for the "social justice" competency), in addition to reiterating that broader student involvement is crucial. There was also significant discussion about assessment of the core curriculum and how this is communicated to faculty. Questions were raised regarding the number of adjunct faculty members that would be teaching core classes. A future meeting will be scheduled to discuss advising.

Faculty Affairs Committee – Dr. Jeremy Cruz presented the Faculty Affairs Committee report for Dr. Christoforos Christoforou (Committee Chair). Dr. Cruz and Dr. Anne Galvin met with Dr. Jacqueline Grogan (Freshman Center) and Dr. Charles Pizzo (Freshman Center) on November 23rd to follow up with questions about advising and registration. They discussed improved information pathways, visibility, and course descriptions within Degree Works and on the course offering page for courses that satisfy common or distributed core requirements. They also discussed concerns regarding the ratio of core curriculum vs. major courses taken by students in their first 3 semesters, amid high rates of major-switching by students and the need for faculty training for course advisement. The committee will meet on December 6, following the University Senate meeting to review its charge and discuss spring meeting agendas.

Student Affairs Committee – No Report

New Business / Updates

New Core Curriculum

Dr. Møller explained that Dr. Conn (chair of the Ad-hoc committee of the UCCC) and he had presented the 39-credit core curriculum proposal to the Educational Committees of all Faculty Councils to seek feedback and suggestions.

Dr. Conn spoke about the core curriculum Vision Statement and the 39-Credit core curriculum proposal. The new core curriculum proposal will be continually assessed and modified, if needed, over time. For example, changes will be made to "Discover N.Y." which will be called "First Year Seminar." Themes of this course may vary every few years based upon feedback and assessment. Social Justice will become a new core curriculum requirement. Core curriculum competencies are being discussed and refreshed.

Next, Dr. Møller discussed assessment of core curriculum. The UCCC has formed an Assessment Committee and there will be close collaboration with Dr. Marc Gillespie in the Provost office.

Dr. Cruz asked if there will be opportunities for funded city-based learning and if we could incorporate more languages into the first year for students. Dr. Conn answered that the budget allows only \$45 per student for 3 experiences and that includes transportation, which means that most activities have to be free. Others have also asked about languages and it is still being discussed at UCCC.

Dr. Heath inquired about course selection for certain majors. It may be beneficial for the government and politics majors to have a statistics course as the math requirement, how could this be determined? Dr. Conn informed Dr. Heath to share a proposal with the UCCC. All departments are welcome to offer suggestions for course selection/substitutions.

Dr. Møller responded that inequality and racism exist on our campus, in our country and across the globe and must be addressed as part of our identity and mission. Each student should take a course on this topic. Dr. Conn stated that the UCCC is in agreement with this as do the faculty groups involved in this process.

Dr. William Boyle stated that forcing all St. John's students to take a course in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion will lead to much propagandizing of the students and will push St. John's in a more leftist direction. Dr. Møller stated that the core curriculum should not be our best kept secret. It should be celebrated and marketed and should change with the times. The core curriculum should be a part of the St. John's Signature Experience that we are developing. Doing this will help students see the relevance and interconnectivity of the courses they are taking with the major they have chosen. He would like to see a core curriculum stand at Open House and for core curriculum to have its own promotional material.

Enrollment

Dr. Møller provided an enrollment report.

- the university is currently up 2% in applications and up 28% in admissions which is about 1000 more applications than we had last year.
- The average GPA is identical to last year but SAT scores are much higher.
- There is an increase in the primary market in places such as Queens, Long Island, Westchester, and Manhattan.
- There is also an increase in some of the secondary markets.

This is still early in the recruitment cycle and Dr. Møller will provide another update at the next University Senate meeting.

Fall 2022 Recruitment

Dr. Møller provided an update on the fall 2022 recruitment strategies. We will continue to build on initiatives that worked well for fall 2021 as well as implement new approaches for fall 2022.

- We changed our financial leveraging partner to EAB for a more dynamic leveraging strategy moving forward.
- We must focus more on the strength of our individual academic programs. The Deans have been tasked with providing information on academic programs so that we can highlight and market this information.
- We want to continue faculty engagement - last year faculty wrote hand-written notes to students which resulted in a two-fold increase in yield.
- Even though our numbers are up, Dr. Møller reminded everyone the world is unpredictable so we must stay ahead of things.

Linda Shannon read an announcement from Dr. Christine Goodwin, Director of the Office of Institutional Research. There will be two surveys that will be sent out during the spring semester for them to complete. The first, COACHE, is a job satisfaction survey for Faculty which will be administered in February 2022. The second survey is from HEDS which is a Diversity and Equity Survey which will be sent out to Students, Faculty, Staff and Administrators and is scheduled for March 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Natalia Seda and Christine Kenny