

St. John's University

New York

University Senate Meeting

Monday, September 19, 2022

University Center, Suite D, and WebEx

Present: Dr. Uma Balakrishnan, Prof. Heather Ball, Dr. Barbara Cozza, Dr. Zachary Davis, Dr. Joan DeBello, Dean Teresa Delgado, Ms. Emily Encalada, Rev. Patrick Flanagan, Dr. Almerinda Forte, Prof. Caroline Fuchs, Mr. David Gachigo(Webex), Dr. Anne Galvin, Dr. Granville Ganter, Prof. Elayne Greenberg, Dr. Kathryn Hutchinson, Mr. Mohammed Hussein(Webex), Ms. Nawsin Kamal, Dr. W. Jean Kwon (Webex), Dr. Paula Lazrus, Dr. Ming-Hui Li, Dr. Stephen Llano, Prof. Martha Mackey, Dr. Kathleen Marks, Dr. Donald McClure, Dr. SeungEun McDevitt, Dr. Gary Martin, Dr. Lauren Moskowitz, Prof. William Murphy, Prof. Maria Pirrone, Dr. Alejandro Quintana, Rev. Aidan Rooney, Dr. Susan Rosenberg, Dr. Mostafa Sadoqi, Dr. Francis Schanne, Rev. Brian Shanley, Ms. Jessica Siniscalchi, Dr. Marina Soroichinski, Prof. Anthony Todman, Dr. Ahmad Vakil, Dean James Wolfinger, Keaton Wong, J.D.

Excused: Dr. Ivan Abel, Prof. Alla Baeva, Dr. Chiang-Nan Chao, Dr. Ali El-Kerdi, Dr. Louis Gesualdi, Dr. Dianella Howarth, Provost Simon Møller, Dean Anne Lin, Ms. Christina Quartararo, Dean Noreen Sharpe, Dean Michael Simons

Absent: Ms. Ashley Ciechalski, Dr. Charles Clark, Ms. Alyssa Corley, Ms. Carley Germain, Ms. Sharon Hewitt Watkins, Mr. Mohamed Hussein, Dean Luca Iandoli, Dr. Alexander Katz, Prof. Margaret McGuinness, Prof. Anthony Sabino, Dr. Lequez Spearman

Also Present: Dr. Katherine Aquino, Dr. Christoforos Christoforou, Dr. Phyllis Conn, Dr. Roberta Hayes (Webex), Ms. Christine Kenny, Ms. Joanne Llerandi, Mr. Michael McLeod, Dr. Elise Megehee, Ms. Linda Shannon

Introduction and Opening Prayer

The meeting began at 3:20 p.m. Ms. Shannon welcomed all in attendance. She explained that she was appointed by the President to represent Dr. Møller in his absence for this meeting. She implored all Senators to carry the information learned at today's meeting back to their units. Rev. Patrick Flanagan offered the opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes of April 11, 2022.

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, April 11th, 2022, were unanimously approved as distributed.

Committee Election Reports:

Ms. Shannon reminded everyone that since the by-laws were revised, we now hold the committee elections prior to our first meeting. She explained that the updated committee lists were emailed to them last week, but there was still one open spot on the Budget Committee and 2 open spots on the EPDC Committee. Nominations were opened for the Budget Committee. There were no nominations offered at the meeting for the Budget Committee so nominations were closed and we will visit that again at the November meeting. Nominations were opened for the EPDC Committee. Three senators were nominated: Dr. Granville Ganter, Prof. Maria Pirrone, and Dr. Francis Schanne. Since there were 3 nominations for only 2 spots, the positions will be chosen via email election this week.

Granville Ganter nominated Christine Kenny for Senate Secretary and she accepted the nomination. Christine Kenny was elected by acclamation.

Linda advised all that before the next meeting each committee must select a chairperson and send the name to Christine Kenny before the November Senate meeting.

Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: Dr. Granville Ganter advised that the By-Laws Committee met with Linda Shannon, Christine Kenny, and Linda Romano on September 7th, 2022, to discuss making a document archive for Senate materials. It was decided that the archive would be accessible to all faculty and administrators through SJU sign-on. Typical items on the archive will be minutes of the meetings, agendas, and committee reports. Immediately following this September 7th meeting, Christine Kenny forwarded some materials to Linda Romano who has begun working on this project. The Senate Archive should be up and running in about a month. There were no questions for Dr. Ganter.

Budget Committee: No Report.

Educational Programs and Development Committee: No Report.

Faculty Affairs Committee: No Report

Student Affairs: No Report.

New Business/Updates

1. Core Curriculum- Report by Dr. Phyllis Conn

Dr. Conn advised that the UCCC is working with the Registrar, Deans, and faculty and plans to implement the new core in Fall 2023. The basic Principles are:

- Assessment-based approach – future changes based on assessment results
- Responsive to changes in higher education and the world – the core should evolve as needed
- Constituent awareness and involvement – SJU faculty; students; staff; employers
- Responsiveness to accreditation needs
- Responsiveness to student concerns about room for electives

- Collaborative work across colleges and University Libraries
- University Core and College Cores – not Common Core/Distributed Core

Dr. Conn then discussed the Implementation Plan:

- Assessment Committee – assessment plan and review of “old” core
- UCCC – defining a few remaining items (ethics; sacred texts)
- Colleges – creating their own College cores by January 1, 2023
- Registrar – coding courses; will need to “touch” all majors/minors – an enormous task
- Ad Hoc Committee (faculty from all colleges; University Libraries; Freshman Center) worked for two years; they’ve been thanked and released
- Plans for informing faculty and staff about new core – in progress

There will be a transition period because first-year students in Fall 2023 will take the new core and continuing students will use the “old” or current core. Differences are not likely to start affecting new students until their second semester or later.

There is a Social Justice course in the new core, and an Ad Hoc Curriculum Committee also invited proposals for other courses in the areas of science/data analysis and mathematics and/or logical, quantitative, and computational reasoning. An application invitation went to faculty across the University which had a deadline of May 31, 2022. The committee received over 20 proposals for social justice courses. UCCC would not approve a course that did not have Faculty Council approval first. There are 5 or 6 tentative overall learning goals still pending approval. These would replace the 8 current knowledge bases and 5 competencies. The Ad Hoc Committee and UCCC reviewed core curricula and core learning goals from similar institutions. The Ad Hoc Committee proposed five overall learning goals, and possibly a sixth, to the UCCC for discussion and view. The UCCC expects to vote on these soon.

Dr. Conn was asked two questions by Dr. Ganter. She responded saying she expected smaller changes over time rather than massive changes, and that faculty from colleges other than SJC have already submitted proposals to the UCCC.

2. Enrollment

- Linda Shannon praised the collaborations, including the Summer Initiative, that helped to build enrollment.
- Enrollment of registered freshman increased 10% from 2,842 in 2021 to 3,121 in 2022.
- Paid freshmen increased by 7% from 2,621 in 2021 to 2,799 in 2022.
- Registered transfers showed a 12% increase from 307 in 2021 to 345 in 2022.
- Paid transfers had a 7% increase from 255 in 2021 to 274 in 2022.

The projection is now over 2,900. After the October 15th deadline we will know more. Graduate enrollment is down to 75 paid students.

3. Staten Island

Linda updated the group on what has been happening since the Impending Closure communication went out on August 12th, 2022, before the Fall semester began. Since then, enrollment management and deans have aligned to provide numerous online sessions for students and their parents. There has been a Commitment Letter

regarding Staten Island tuition remaining the same. There is quite a bit of interest from students to come here, as students learn about the campus and opportunities.

Provost Møller and Ms. Shannon went to meet with the Staten Island faculty on September 6, 2022. The faculty felt satisfied with all that was being done for the students but expressed concern about their administrators during this transition. A Transition Team, similar to the Covid Task Force we had, was created and will be run by Ms. Joanne Llerandi and she will maintain direct access to the Provost and Ms. Shannon. This team will be mostly from Staten Island and some who go back and forth. Communication will be paramount to the Task Force as it is important that everyone knows how to get assistance.

Human Resources is putting into place a plan for Staten Island administrators and staff to finish the 2 remaining phase-out years at Staten Island. Human Resources is planning to have individualized meetings with all of the Staten Island administrators and staff, as well as the affected department heads, to discuss the possibility of relocating employees to Queens after the phase-out period.

Dr. Gary Martin came from Staten Island to attend this meeting in person and inquired whether winter or summer courses could be discounted to help Staten Island students graduate early. It was answered that there are still many unknowns, but this is being looked at. Ms. Llerandi advised that the CORE courses are the biggest issue. It was also asked if there would be travel accommodations for people moving here but this was not known by the Chair at this time.

4. Middle States Process (MSCHE)

St. John's University is up for Re-accreditation Academic Year 2024-2025. In Spring 2022, there was a pre-Steering Committee to look at the standards, possible structure of our report, and requirements of affiliation. This fall MSCHE invited University designees to attend a Self-Study Institute for all Universities that have the same re-accreditation table as us. This self-study consists of a series of 5 webinars to introduce and guide us through the process. The annual MSCHE conference is taking place December 7-9, 2022, and the selection of co-chairs (one administrator and one faculty member) and members of a Steering Committee has begun. A broad overview of the timeline is that from Spring 2023 to Fall 2023 there will be data collected and organized, in Spring and Summer of 2024 writing of the document and submission will occur in Fall 2024. There will be a compliance piece as well and a site visit in Spring 2025.

Ms. Shannon asked if there was any new business before adjournment. There was not so she advised it could be emailed to us if anything came up.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Kenny

