

**St. John's University
New York
University Senate Meeting
Monday, April 17, 2023**

University Center, Suite D, and WebEx

Present: Prof. Alla Baeva, Prof. Heather Ball, Dr. Chiang-nan Chao, Dr. Charles Clark, Dr. Barbara Cozza, Dr. Joan DeBello, Rev. Patrick Flanagan, Dr. Almerinda Forte, Dean Caroline Fuchs, Mr. David Gachigo (Webex), Prof. Elayne Greenberg, Dr. Francis Holland (For Dr. Kathleen Marks) Dr. Dianella Howarth, Dean Luca Iandoli, Dr. Ming-Hui Li, Dr. Gary Martin (Webex), Dr. Donald McClure, Provost Simon Møller, Dr. Lauren Moskowitz, Prof. William Murphy, Prof. Maria Pirrone, Dr. Alejandro Quintana, Rev. Aidan Rooney, Dr. Susan Rosenberg, Dr. Francis Schanne, Rev. Brian Shanley, Dean Michael Simons, Ms. Jessica Siniscalchi, Dr. Lequez Spearman, Prof. Anthony Todman, Dr. Ahmad Vakil, Dean James Wolfinger, Keaton Wong, J.D.

Excused: Dr. Ivan Abel, Dr. Uma Balakrishnan, Dean Teresa Delgado, Dr. Granville Ganter, Ms. Carley Germain, Dr. Louis Gesualdi (Dr. DeBello attended on his behalf), Dr. Kathryn Hutchinson (on leave, Sarah Kelly attended on her behalf), Dr. Alexander Katz, Dr. W. Jean Kwon, Dr. Paula Lazrus, Dean Anne Lin, Dr. Stephen Llano, Prof. Martha Mackey, Dr. Kathleen Marks (on leave, Dr. Holland attended on her behalf), Ms. Christina Quartoraro, Dr. Marina Sorochinski, Dr. James Vorbach

Absent: Ms. Ashley Ciechalski, Ms. Alyssa Corley, Dr. Zachary Davis, Dr. Ali El-Kerdi, Ms. Emily Encalada, Dr. Anne Galvin, Ms. Sharon Hewitt-Watkins, Mr. Mohamed Hussein, Ms. Nawsin Kamal, Dr. Seung-Eun McDevitt, Prof. Margaret McGuinness, Prof. Anthony Sabino, Dr. Mostafa Sadoqi, Dean Norean Sharpe

Also Present: Mr. Sean Brown, Dr. Christoforos Christoforou, Dr. Marc Gillespie, Dr. Roberta Hayes (Webex), Dr. Francis Holland, Sarah Kelly, J.D., Ms. Christine Kenny, Ms. Joanne Llerandi, Linda Shannon, J.D.

Introduction and Opening Prayer

The meeting began at 3:17 p.m. Dr. Møller welcomed all in attendance. Student Senator Jessica Siniscalchi offered the opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes of January 30, 2023.

This item was postponed until later in the meeting to ensure a quorum.

Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: No Report.

Budget Committee: No Report

Educational Programs and Development Committee: Dr. Christoforos advised that this committee met on April 12, 2023, to review the committee's charge and to brainstorm ideas regarding potential program recommendations. They will meet again in September.

Faculty Affairs Committee: Dr. Christoforos informed us that this committee met on April 12, 2023, and discussed faculty concerns about the challenges and impact recent advances in AI models and tools, such as ChatGPT, might have on the teaching and educational processes at St. John's University. The committee recognized a need for

having policies and guidelines for faculty on how to best adapt to these technologies. The committee approved a recommendation for Senate consideration that an advisory board of faculty knowledgeable in AI and ChatGPT from across the colleges be created to provide guidance to the university faculty through the Office of the Provost. Provost Møller acknowledged that AI is an important topic which was discussed last week in Provost Council, and that forming a working group is a good idea and this will be revisited for the fall.

Student Affairs: No Report.

New Business

Provost Møller shared with the group the success of Accepted Students' Day on Saturday, April 15, 2023. More students attended this year as compared to last year and there was much excitement on campus.

Staten Island Update

Ms. Llerandi reminded all that the Staten Island Academic Task Force was created after the closing announcement to assist the community with this transitional 2-year teach-out period.

Some of the things that were done in the Fall 2022 semester:

- Buses to take S.I. students to Queens campus for tours and various events such as: open houses, career fairs, basketball games, Winter Carnival, etc..
- Improved food service options for Staten Island campus.

For the Spring, the committee wanted to hear directly from the students, so they sent out a survey on January 26, 2023, with a follow up reminder on Monday February 13, 2023. Out of 737 total recipients, 121 responses were received. This is a 14.8% response rate. Some of the questions on this survey consisted of whether or not students wished to take summer 2023 courses at Staten Island, if they would be interested in a tour of Queens campus, and if they thought they would be a SJU Queens campus student in the Fall of 2024. (See attached Power Point survey questions and answers).

Spring 2023 activities planned by the Staten Island Academic Task Force:

- Deans and Donuts information sessions
- March 20th Student Life event question and answer session for S.I. students and parents
- Stormin' Loud on April 28th- Admissions planning tours in the morning before event and bus transportation
- Study Abroad Office is working on a passport class for Staten Island students

More events and ideas are in the planning stages for the Fall 2024 semester.

There was a question as to what will happen to the faculty working there. Ms. Llerandi said there were different possibilities, and those faculty members affected are all being contacted by Human Resources. When asked if there were plans to discount summer courses, the answer was that it was doubtful. The Deans' offices are very helpful in determining if the transition is up to speed.

MSCHE: Middle States Accreditation Update

- Dr. Marc Gillespie explained the process of the multi-year self-study process that began in spring 2022. Our Middle States liaison, Vice President Robert Bonfiglio, will be on campus on May 1, 2023, to meet with committees, members of the Board of Trustees, and the President, as well as to hold a 1-hour information session for all regarding how Middle States and Accreditation work.
- Dr. Gillespie requests that everyone go onto the SJU Middle States web page and sign up for the information session and read the Self-Study Design Document.
- Dean Wolfinger and Dr. Hilas are chairs of the Steering Committee. Committees and work groups have been formed and action plans will be created.

- A general timeline was also provided. By spring 2024 we will be assembling the self-study and we will have action plans. We will have visits from our site-team in both 2024 and 2025.

Athletics: Mental Health and the Student-Athlete Experience

Mental Health among college students is a growing public health concern and the stigma associated with reporting mental health issues and utilizing mental health resources is compounding the problem.

Dr. Sharon See introduced herself as the Faculty Athletics Representative, a liaison between the faculty and the student-athletes. She encourages student-athletes having issues to follow the chain of command and first talk to their professors, chairs, and deans. If the issues aren't resolved, they can contact their advisors in Academic Support as well as Dr. See. Faculty members can also contact Dr. See if they are having issues with a student-athlete. Issues can include academic dishonesty or problems with travel schedules and makeups. At student-athlete orientation, Dr. See urges students to be up front with their professors about their travel schedules on the first day of class and provide them with their travel letter and upcoming schedule.

Mr. Raymond Howell, the Senior Director of Student-Athlete Academic Services, spoke next about how the mental health stigma has lessened and students are taking more advantage of the assistance offered to them. Time management is a huge issue for these student-athletes, not just during the sports season, as most college athletes can train for 12 months of the year. Mr. Howell introduced 2 current student-athletes to share their stories:

- Hannah Mearns is a junior transfer student who is originally from California. She is on the softball team, an Environmental Science major, and in the Presidential Honor Society. She shared that student athletes get homesick and for her it took 2 years to find balance. Other issues student athletes have are sleep deprivation and anxiety. She attended Life Balance Sessions here at St. John's and found them valuable.
- Nicolas Fleuriau Chateau is an international student-athlete from Canada who is majoring in Criminal Justice/Homeland Security and is on the soccer team. Because he is an international student athlete, he is not permitted to work here unless on campus, and he also cannot take advantage of Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) opportunities. Nicolas stressed the importance of having a good support system, taking care of yourself, and taking advantage of counseling and life balancing courses to help manage everything. Sports Strata is an online counseling service to help student-athletes. Nicolas mentioned that Ray has helped him tremendously with time management and mental health struggles with his injuries.

Doug Trani, Associate Athletic Director for Compliance, spoke next about compliance and mental health of transfer students, and Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) opportunities and concerns.

He explained that when we get a transfer student-athlete, they work together with the previous school, the student's doctor, and the counseling center here at St. John's. If faculty see any student-athlete struggling, they should let the academic advisor know.

As of July 2021, students who sign on for NIL can receive income/compensation. There is also a New York State NIL law, as well as the NCAA NIL Policy, we must comply with both. Key points:

- NIL opportunities are only for domestic student-athletes, it would jeopardize an international visa and since 25% of our athletes are international, they cannot participate in this.
- St. John's works with a company called "INFLCR" with their NIL contacts to provides some educational assistance to student-athletes in terms of their taxes. The athletic department advises the STJ student-athletes to see a tax professional when preparing their annual taxes.
- The number of NIL opportunities for our student-athletes continues to grow, from 31 in year one (2021-22) to over 100 the next year (2022-23).

- Student-athletes are not permitted to sponsor things that go against the mission of St. John's University such as tobacco and alcohol.
- We advise student-athletes to get an NIL agent (registered in NY state) to assist them in the NIL space to help ensure the SA is making the right decision before signing an NIL agreement.

Father Shanley offered that managing brands also adds additional stress to these students and that international students can earn money for NIL when they are back visiting their home country. Doug gave the faculty some helpful NCAA compliance tips: Never offer anything only for student-athletes, if there is academic misconduct contact Sharon See, and we are all in this together, having "shared responsibility" in terms of compliance with the NCAA rules.

Approval of the Minutes of January 30, 2023.

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, January 30, 2023, were unanimously approved as distributed.

Dr. Møller requested that everyone bring this information back to the other members of their school or college so we can keep everyone informed. He wished all a good summer and is looking forward to seeing everyone again in the fall.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Kenny