

St. John's University

New York

University Senate Meeting

Monday, November 28, 2022

University Center, Suite D, and WebEx

Present: Dr. Ching-nan Chao, Dr. Barbara Cozza, Dr. Joan DeBello, Dean Teresa Delgado, Dean Caroline Fuchs, Mr. David Gachigo (Webex), Dr. Granville Ganter, Ms. Carley Germain, Prof. Elayne Greenberg, Dr. Dianella Howarth, Dr. Kathryn Hutchinson, Ms. Nawsin Kamal, Dr. W. Jean Kwon (Webex), Dean Anne Lin, Dr. Stephen Llano, Dr. Kathleen Marks, Dr. Gary Martin (Webex), Dr. Donald McClure, Provost Simon Møller, Dr. Lauren Moskowitz, Prof. William Murphy, Prof. Maria Pirrone, Ms. Christina Quartararo, Dr. Alejandro Quintana, Rev. Aidan Rooney, Dr. Susan Rosenberg, Dr. Mostafa Sadoqi, Dr. Francis Schanne, Rev. Brian Shanley, Ms. Jessica Siniscalchi, Dr. Lequez Spearman, Prof. Anthony Todman, Dr. Ahmad Vakil, Dr. James Vorbach, Keaton Wong, J.D.

Excused: Dr. Ivan Abel, Prof. Alla Baeva, Dr. Uma Balakrishnan, Prof. Heather Ball, Dr. Zachary Davis, Dr. Ali El-Kerdi, Rev. Patrick Flanagan, Dr. Almerinda Forte, Dr. Louis Gesualdi, Ms. Sharon Hewitt Watkins, Dr. Paula Lazrus, Dr. Seung Eun McDevitt, Dr. Ming-Hui Li, Dean Noreen Sharpe, Dean Michael Simons

Absent: Ms. Ashley Ciechalski, Dr. Charles Clark, Ms. Alyssa Corley, Ms. Emily Encalada, Dr. Anne Galvin, Mr. Mohamed Hussein, Dean Luca Iandoli, Dr. Alexander Katz, Prof. Martha Mackey, Prof. Margaret McGuinness, Prof. Anthony Sabino, Dr. Marina Sorochinski, Dean James Wolfinger

Also Present: Katherine Aquino, Dr. Alex Buoye (for Dr. Abel), Mr. Sean Brown, Dr. Christoforos Christoforou, Dr. Marc Gillespie, Ms. Christine Kenny, Dr. Mark Kiley (Webex), Ms. Joanne Llerandi, Linda Shannon, J.D.

Introduction and Opening Prayer

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

Approval of the Minutes of September 19, 2022.

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, September 19, 2022, were unanimously approved as distributed.

Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: Dr. Granville Ganter advised that the Senate website is now up and running, populated with last year's minutes (AY 2021-2022) and the agenda from this year's September meeting. He explained in a step-by-step fashion how to access the website. He also provided a description of the site, which explains what the University Senate is, and its primary responsibilities. The site is available to the University community through the internal sign-on page.

Budget Committee: Dr. Barbara Cozza presented the report and advised that the Budget Committee met on November 22, 2022. During this meeting, Michael McLeod provided an update on the fiscal year 2022 operating budget results and presented information relating to the approved FY23 operating budget. They discussed how the expense base continues to outpace the revenue base creating immediate financial challenges which highlights the importance of generating additional non-tuition revenue to close this gap.

Educational Programs and Development Committee: No Report.

Faculty Affairs Committee: Dr. Christoforou, chairperson of the committee, shared this report from their meeting on November 15th, 2022. He advised that the “Committee’s Charge” was presented and explained to all members at the meeting and a copy was made accessible to all members on One Drive. The Committee discussed options for programs to facilitate the dissemination of SJU faculty publications in open-access outlets. They explored the feasibility of the University establishing “Read & Publish” Agreements with reputable publishers, and whether the University could establish an open-access publishing fund that could support funding the publication fees to open access journals.

Student Affairs: No Report.

Updates:

Staten Island Academic Task Force

Ms. Joanne Llerandi reminded this group that The Staten Island Academic Task Force was created in September of 2022 to work with the community during the transition. The committee was charged with the following:

- To create a timeline reflecting the steps that should be taken over the two year teach-out plan.
- To act in response to student academic matters that may arise over the course of the two-year teach out period and work with the deans to appropriately advise students.
- To work on establishing classes to be offered in the Summer of 2023 and communicate those offerings to students.
- To establish a working group that can focus on students’ services and report back to the task force on what students require for the next two years.
- To prioritize and elevate concerns from faculty, administrators, and staff to the group for resolutions.
- To plan the transition of Staten Island students to the Queens campus at the end of the two year teach-out period and continue to be a resource to the students and faculty members, administrators, and staff once settled at the Queens campus.

Ms. Llerandi spoke about what has been done so far. The Office of Enrollment Management began a series of virtual information sessions to hear any concerns that students and parents had and addressed them. Some support services that will be offered to students who transition to the Queens campus in Fall 2024 will be:

- A support network, consisting of SJU faculty, staff, and administrators to work with the students.
- Academic advisors will work with students to ensure they register for their preferred classes upon transferring to Queens up until graduation.
- Staten Island students will keep their current tuition rate + fees + differential tuition when they transfer to Queens.
- Housing grant or a new commuter award, depending on whether or not students live in university housing.
- A block of rooms in university housing in Queens will be reserved for the Fall 2024 Staten Island students.

There will also be activities and events scheduled for Staten Island students to get to know the Queens campus. Some of these activities will include:

- Coming by bus to Career and Information Fairs on the Queens campus.
- Information sessions for Staten Island students.
- Student life sessions to learn about all the academic and social on-campus organizations.
- Meet and greet sessions with faculty and deans.
- Students will be invited to events such as Tip Off, Winter Carnival, and basketball games.

Some of the things being worked on for the Spring of 2023 and beyond are:

- Additional food selection and services
- Offering Summer 2023 classes
- Student mentors and buddies to help forge relationships between students from both campuses
- Meet your chairperson or advisor days
- Queens campus tours for Staten Island students
- Possible shuttle bus services

All Senate members are encouraged to report out on these developments to their respective areas so that we can keep the communication flowing.

MSCHE Middlestates Accreditation

Dr. Marc Gillespie presented a MSCHE Self-Study Timeline. He explained that MSCHE is an institutional accreditor recognized by the United States Department of Education that establishes equitable standards for accreditation with member institutions that advance the impact of accreditation in higher education, as well as promoting educational excellence. It includes a system of self-review for members.

The Self-Study process must cover:

- 7 Standards
- 15 Requirements of Affiliation
- Document Roadmap
- Compliance Review

MSCHE recommends creating Steering Committees which have sub-committees that are chaired by a faculty member and an administrator. A diversely balanced mix of people should represent our university as a whole. Requirements for affiliation are subsets of rules running parallel to the standards.

Dr. Gillespie laid out a timeline spanning from now through spring of 2025. In the Spring of 2023, we will have a MSCHE check-in. By spring of 2024 we will build a self-study. The goal is for everyone on campus to be aware of this self-study. By Spring of 2025, eight teams show up to conduct interviews and the final self-study submission is due. Dr. Gillespie advised that the University Senate will be a reviewing group. Middlestates will advise us what we are doing well and suggest and recommend things we can do to improve upon certain areas. They allow us 2 years to correct problematic issues. Many agree that this self-reflective process is imperative and can be a lever for positive change. Conceivably, by March of 2023, a live-document website can be in place for our university. Rev. Rooney asked if MSCHE will incorporate Diversity and Inclusion to which Dr. Gillespie responded that it would. Father Shanley acknowledged that he has prior experience in this area, and it is a wonderful opportunity for improving our university.

There was no new business at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Kenny