

**St. John's University
New York
University Senate Meeting
Monday, October 2, 2023**

University Center, Suite D, and Microsoft Teams Virtual

Present: Dr. Sophie Bell, Dr. Sandra Beysolow, Dr. Chiang-nan Chao, Dr. Eunhye Choi, Dr. Zachary Davis, Dr. Joan DeBello, Dean Teresa Delgado, Dr. Nancy DiTunnariello (virtual), Rev. Patrick Flanagan, Dr. Almerinda Forte, Dean Caroline Fuchs, Mr. David Gachigo (virtual), Dr. Anne Galvin, Dr. Granville Ganter, Dr. Smita Guha, Prof. Lucy Heckman, Ms. Sharon Hewitt-Watkins, Dr. Dianella Howarth, Ms. Sarah Kelly, J.D., Dr. Ming-Hui Li, Dean Anne Lin, Prof. Martha Mackey, Dr. Gary Martin (virtual), Provost Simon Møller, Dr. Lauren Moskowitz, Prof. William Murphy, Dean Maciek Nowak, Prof. Maria Pirrone, Ms. Christina Quartararo, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Rev. Aidan Rooney, Dr. Mostafa Sadoqi, Dr. Francis Schanne, President Rev. Brian Shanley O.P., Dr. Marina Sorochinski, Dr. Lequez Spearman, Prof. Anthony Todman, Prof. Jacob Todres, Dr. Ahmad Vakil, Dr. James Vorbach, Dean James Wolfinger, Ms. Keaton Wong, J.D.

Excused: Dr. Ivan Abel, Dr. Uma Balakrishnan, Dr. Barbara Cozza, Prof. Elayne Greenberg, Dean Luca Iandoli, Dr. W. Jean Kwon, Dr. Stephen Llano, Dr. Susan Rosenberg, Dean Michael Simons, J.D., Dr. Joan Tropnas.

Absent: Dr. Charles Clark, Dr. Alexander Katz, Dr. Alejandro Quintana, Prof. Anthony Sabino,

Also Present: Mr. Sean Brown, Dr. Phyllis Conn, Dr. Marilyn Dono-Koulouris (virtual), Dr. Roberta Hayes (virtual), Dr. John Fitzgerald, Ms. Christine Kenny, Ms. Joanne Llerandi, Mr. Anthony Marziliano, Mr. Michael McLeod, Dr. Elise Megehee, Dr. Jay Nathan, Prof. Catherine Ruggieri (Virtual), Prof. Kathryn Shaughnessy, Ms. Linda Shannon, J.D., Prof. Benjamin Turner.

Introduction and Opening Prayer

The meeting began at 3:20 p.m. After a brief welcome and introduction, Dr. Møller invited Professor Maria Pirrone to recite the opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes of April 17, 2023.

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, April 17, 2023, were unanimously approved as distributed.

Committee Election Reports

Provost Møller reminded all that the Senate by-laws were revised three years ago to allow committee elections to be held prior to our first meeting to save time, and the results of these electronic ballots can be seen on committee membership lists that were distributed last week via e-mail.

He advised everyone that each committee must select a chairperson, and that person's name should be provided to Christine Kenny prior to the November meeting.

Linda Shannon nominated Christine Kenny for Senate Secretary for academic year 2023-2024 and she accepted the nomination. There were no other nominees and Christine Kenny was elected by acclamation.

Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: No Report.

Budget Committee: No Report

Educational Programs and Development Committee: No Report

Faculty Affairs Committee: No Report

Student Affairs Committee: No Report.

Updates

1. Enrollment

Provost Møller provided an enrollment report. While being optimistic, he reminded all that the enrollment landscape continues to be challenging and offered some numbers:

- First time/full time: 2,667 (expected to be around 2,700 at the freeze date) – 136 SI students
- New graduate students: 1,344 (+9%/109) (expected 1,350)
- Transfer 313 (+5%/14) (expected 320)

He thanked the enrollment management team and is very pleased with our student recruitment and financial aid leveraging strategies. While the average tuition discount rate for private and selective institutions in the Northeast is ~65%, we have held our discount rate at 60%.

2. Middle States

Anthony Marziliano, Assistant Provost for Academic Assessment and Accreditation presented an update on our Middle States re-accreditation progress. He advised that 9 well-represented working groups have been formed, one for each of the 7 standards, and two additional groups.

- The MSCHE Self-Study Design (SSD) has been approved and distributed to SJU stakeholders. The report is also available on the SJU MSCHE site (<https://www.stjohns.edu/middle-states-accreditation>)
- Working Groups are now meeting and gathering evidence to begin their standards-based narratives.
- Working Groups will request data through the Evidence Inventory Working Group, in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness.
- All MSCHE Working Groups now include student representation, and the Steering Committee includes representatives from the BOT and community at-large.

Anthony also supplied a timeline:

Spring 2024

- Self-Study draft is finalized and posted to SJU site
- Dates are selected for preliminary visit from Chair of site team and full site team visit

Fall 2024

- Self-Study draft provided to Team Chair
- Team Chair visit takes place
- Revise Self-Study based on Team Chair feedback and post to SJU site

Spring 2025

- Final review of Self-Study
- Upload Self-Study, Compliance, and Evidence Inventory to MSCHE portal
- Prep for Team Visit
- Team Visit takes place
- Site team response provided to SJU

New Business

1. AI

Provost Møller provided an update regarding the University's direction with respect to Artificial Intelligence. In the spring of 2023, the university formed an AI working group with members from across different sectors of St. John's. The Office of the Provost distributed an *AI Guidelines* document via email to all faculty on September 1, 2023. As AI will have an impact on all areas at St. John's, an AI Task Force will be formed, led by Sharon Hewitt Watkins. The Provost's Office is currently assembling an Academic AI committee to be led by Dean Iandoli. The charge for this

committee is still being finalized. Dr. Christoforous, who is also on the Senate's Committee for Educational Programs and Developments and the Faculty Affairs Committee, will be invited to join this academic AI committee as he raised the AI issue at our last senate meeting. Dean Landoli and Dr. Christoforous will report at Senate meetings. Provost Møller requested that those present at today's meeting bring this information back to their colleagues.

2. Wednesday Class Meeting Times

Before Provost Møller invited Dr. John Fitzgerald, Associate Professor, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, to present his topic of a possible adjustment to Wednesday class meeting times, he first advised that under §5.8 of our by-laws, the Committee on Educational Programs and Developments **"can investigate, review, and report on any University-wide academic matter when so directed by the Senate. This committee shall submit its findings and recommendations to the University Senate."**

Dr. Fitzgerald proposed that the current Wednesday schedule; 7:30-10:20 a.m., 10:40-1:30 p.m., and 1:50-4:40 p.m. be replaced by 7:30-10:30 a.m., 11:00-2:00 p.m., and 2:30-5:30 p.m. This new proposed schedule also includes 30 minutes in between classes instead of the current 20 minutes. In a survey he had conducted in 2022, he said that 67% of faculty approved of this proposed change. When asked how many faculty responded to this survey, Dr. Fitzgerald answered 157. It was also mentioned that this could possibly apply to Saturday schedule as well.

Provost Møller then invited Joanne Llerandi, Assistant Provost and University Registrar, to provide some of the practical aspects of operationalizing this possible change. Discussion followed with key points emerging:

- If we lengthen the time between classes, we will cut into the 5 p.m. time slot and it may affect students registering for those classes. A ten-minute break between classes would leave just enough time for students to make the 5 p.m. class.
- A faculty member was concerned that students who take science labs may be affected. Ms. Llerandi replied that labs would not be altered.
- When asked if classes can start earlier than 7:30 a.m., she replied that statistically the earlier classes don't have as many students.
- Also mentioned was that this time change might affect student and instructor evening plans, such as picking up children or student jobs.
- It was determined that this time change would largely impact first year students as 90% of these 3-hour Wednesday classes are meant for them, and because of this the Department of Core Studies should be involved in decisions.
- Some suggested that we should poll students as well as instructors.

Provost Møller read the charge, **"to study the desirability of altering the Wednesday class meeting times from 2 hours 50 minutes to 3 hours with consideration for its effect on evening classes"**, and then a vote was taken to determine whether this proposal should be given to the EPDC committee. The result of the vote was 40 in favor and 2 opposed. It was determined that the EPDC committee would further examine this idea and render a recommendation at a future University Senate meeting.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Kenny