

**St. John's University
New York
University Senate Meeting
Monday, November 27, 2023**

University Center, Suite D, and Microsoft Teams Virtual

Present: Dr. Sophie Bell, Dr. Sandra Beysolow, Dr. Chiang-nan Chao, Dr. Eunhye Choi, Dr. Barbara Cozza, Dr. Joan DeBello, Dean Teresa Delgado, Dr. Nancy DiTunnariello (virtual), Rev. Patrick Flanagan, Dr. Almerinda Forte, Dean Caroline Fuchs, Mr. David Gachigo (virtual), Dr. Granville Ganter, Prof. Elayne Greenberg, Dr. Smita Guha, Prof. Lucy Heckman, Ms. Sharon Hewitt-Watkins, Dr. Dianella Howarth, Dean Luca Iandoli, Ms. Sarah Kelly, J.D., Dr. W. Jean Kwon (virtual), Dean Anne Lin, Dr. Gary Martin (virtual), Provost Simon Møller, Dr. Lauren Moskowitz, Prof. William Murphy, Dean Maciek Nowak, Prof. Maria Pirrone, Ms. Christina Quartararo, Rev. Aidan Rooney, Dr. Susan Rosenberg, Dr. Francis Schanne, President Rev. Brian Shanley O.P., Dean Michael Simons, J.D., Ms. Jessica Siniscalchi (student senator) 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. Zachary Davis, Dr. Stephen Llano, Prof. Martha Mackey, Dr. Alejandro Quintana

Absent: Dr. Charles Clark, Dr. Anne Galvin, Dr. Alexander Katz, Dr. Ming-Hui Li, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Prof. Anthony Sabino, Dr. Mostafa Sadoqi, Dr. Marina Sorochinski, Dr. Joan Tropnas

Also Present: Mr. Sean Brown, Dr. Phyllis Conn, Dr. Marilyn Dono-Koulouris (virtual), Dr. Roberta Hayes (virtual), Ms. Christine Kenny, Ms. Joanne Llerandi, Mr. Michael McLeod, 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 Dr. Francis Schanne to recite the opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes of October 2, 2023.

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, October 2, 2023, were unanimously approved as distributed.

Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: No Report.

Budget Committee: No Report

Educational Programs and Development Committee: Report- Please see Updates Section #2 for details.

Faculty Affairs Committee: No Report

Student Affairs Committee: No Report.

Updates

1. Staten Island

Ms. Joanne Llerandi, who chairs the Academic Task Force provided an update with regard to students and the Staten Island campus. The Task Force was created in September of 2022 to assist the Staten Island community with the teach-out process. Some of their charges included:

- Planning campus activities and events
- Addressing concerns, providing updates and course offering information
- University housing policies and meal plans for transfer to the Queens campus

During the Fall 2023 semester, the Office of Student Life provided a variety of activities for students:

- Red Storm Welcome on August 31, and a Great Lawn Activity Fair on September 7
- During October there was Halloween Edition of Java Johnny's on October 2, Family Day on October 7, Town Hall with Student Government on October 12, and Commuter Week from October 16-20
- Christmas tree decorating on November 13 and a Community Meeting on November 16
- Thanksgiving dinner on November 20, as well as a Winter Carnival on November 30
- During the Queens Campus Open-House, Staten Island students received a special tour of the Seton Complex and Century Hall, where a block of rooms have been placed for Staten Island students

A cohort of Staten Island Students will also have an International Education Opportunities during a special edition of St. John's Global Passport program. Led by Prof. Stephen Aduato, participating students will use the St. John's campus in Rome to further their academics by participating in cultural site visits and lectures, strengthening our St. John's Mission and stay connected to our community.

As previously announced last spring, the University has allocated one million dollars toward an endowed scholarship fund to assist future students from Staten Island who will study at the Queens campus. Awards begin in Fall 2024 after the Grymes Hill campus closes.

With regard to Housing and Meal Plans, Staten Island students were informed by e-mail on September 20th of the housing options that will be available to them on the Queens campus after the Teach-Out.

- A housing grant to cover the prevailing triple rate, renewable for up to two years provided the student remains continuously enrolled full-time as an undergraduate student and residing in university housing.
- A block of triple bedrooms in Queens university housing in Seton Complex and Century Hall will be designated to accommodate Staten Island students. These students will receive priority self-selection of these spaces prior to the start of the Fall 2024 housing selection appointments.
- Staten Island students who choose not to reside in University housing but continue their studies at the Queens campus for the 2024-2025 academic year will receive a \$1,500 annual commuter award.

Advisors will continue working with students and those transferring to the Queens campus will have priority registration to ensure they receive the courses needed to complete their degrees in a timely manner.

Events planned for Spring 2024:

- January: A Welcome Breakfast and Student Activity Fair at Queens Campus
- February: Student Transition to Queens Town Hall
- March: Spring Fling Ball Night
- April: Greek Week and Legacy of Leaders Students' Award Night
- May: Asian Pacific Heritage event, Year-End Convocations, Spring Fest, and Family Graduate Dinner

2. Suggested Wednesday Class Time Change Follow-up

Dr. Granville Ganter presented the report from the Educational Programs and Development Committee, providing information two meetings that were held to discuss their charge they received on October 2, 2023, of examining the possibility of extension Wednesday class times to include a 10 minute break.

- Ms. Joanne Llerandi, University Registrar, attended the second EPDC meeting and advised them that currently the Wednesday classes already have a 6-minute surplus built-in.
- After discussion, the committee resolved that because of this surplus, faculty could give their students a break midway through the period without changing the schedule.

The committee recommended that no further action be taken.

An additional topic was raised, that would examine the possibly increasing the lunch break on Wednesdays from 20 minutes to a half hour between classes. It was decided to refer this charge to the EPDC. The Chairperson called for a show of hands and by a majority vote, the Senate moved that the EPDC will consider this and report back their findings at a future meeting.

New Business

1. RESPECT Bias Response Team- Restorative Justice Circles

- Dr. Sophie Bell gave a presentation on RESPECT. It is a team is comprised of students, faculty, administrators, and staff volunteers, spanning 16 sectors of our university, who respond to and try to prevent bias on our campus. A QR code was provided on her power point presentation for people to scan if they wished to join or just obtain more information.
- Restorative Justice uses community circles and conferences to help build trust and promote healing. It is a way to gain accountability without punishment. These dialogue circles can be done with a few people or for entire departments or units. The RESPECT Bias Response Team can be contacted to assist you in setting up a Circle.
- Restorative Justice Conferences are also available. These are structured meetings between offenders, victims, and both parties' family and friends, in which they deal with the consequences of a wrongdoing and decide how to best repair the harm. It is not counseling or a mediation process, but rather a victim-sensitive problem-solving method that teaches participants to resolve their problems within a constructive forum. Not only does this foster accepting responsibility and repairing harm caused, but also reduces the risk of re-offense by building positive social ties to the community.
- To register for upcoming Community-Building Circles, or to request a circle in your own unit, please fill out this FormStack: https://sjuit.formstack.com/forms/respectcircles_rsvp.
- For other questions, email RESPECT@stjohns.edu.
- For more information on RESPECT, go to <https://www.stjohns.edu/equity-and-inclusion/respect>.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Kenny