

St. John's University
New York
University Senate Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2024

University Center, Suite D, and Microsoft Teams Virtual

Present: Dr. Ivan Abel, 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. Smita Guha, Prof. Lucy Heckman, Dr. Dianella Howarth, Dean Luca Iandoli, Dr. Ming-Hui Li, Prof. Martha Mackey, Dr. Gary Martin (virtual), Provost Simon Møller, Dr. Lauren Moskowitz, Prof. William Murphy, Prof. Maria Pirrone, Dr. Alejandro Quintana, 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), Prof. Jacob Todres, Dr. Joan Tropnas, Dr. Ahmad Vakil, Dr. James Vorbach, Dean James Wolfinger, Ms. Keaton Wong, J.D.

Excused: Dr. Sophie Bell, Dr. Barbara Cozza, Dr. Anne Galvin, Dr. Granville Ganter, Prof. Elayne Greenberg, Ms. Sharon Hewitt-Watkins, Ms. Sarah Kelly, J.D., Dr. W. Jean Kwon, Dean Anne Lin, Dr. Stephen Llano, Dean Maciek Nowak, Ms. Christina Quartararo, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Dr. Marina Sorochinski, Prof. Anthony Todman.

Absent: Dr. Uma Balakrishnan, Dr. Charles Clark, Dr. Alexander Katz, Prof. Anthony Sabino, Dr. Mostafa Sadoqi, Dr. Lequez Spearman.

Also Present: Mr. Sean Brown, Dr. Phyllis Conn, Dr. Marilyn Dono-Koulouris (virtual), Dr. Roberta Hayes (virtual), Dr. Olga Hilas, 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 3:23 p.m. After a brief welcome and introduction, Dr. Møller invited Dr. Joan DeBello to recite the opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes of November 27, 2023.

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, November 27, 2023, were unanimously approved as distributed.

Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: No Report.

Budget Committee: Mr. Michael McLeod reported that the Budget Committee met on December 13, 2023. During the meeting Ms. Hewitt Watkins provided an update on the fiscal year 2023 operating budget results and presented information relating to the approved FY24 operating budget and FY24 forecast as of October 31, 2023. There was also a discussion of the importance of how the operating revenue base must outpace the operating expense base to alleviate immediate financial challenges and to continue to place a favorable outlook for St. John's in the financial markets. Lastly, the committee was informed of the FY24 strategic plan funding priorities by pillar.

Educational Programs and Development Committee: Professor Maria Pirrone advised that members of the EPDC met on January 29, 2024, to discuss the proposal of extending the 20-minute break on Wednesdays on the Queens campus to create a longer lunch period. Some of the guidelines and issues raised were:

- There are Wednesday classes at the Manhattan campus that have a different schedule- the committee did not consider making changes to that campus schedule.
- The creation of a one-hour lunch was considered too difficult: a discussion of the possibilities of making a 30-minute lunch period around the time of 1:40 seemed more plausible.

- Radically changing the class schedules before 7:30 a.m. and after 5 p.m. was considered but the committee decided against it because they felt it would be problematic. Small tweaks, particularly at the start of the day, seemed possible.

The committee then proposed several options they had discussed to the Senate Body:

- **No Change-** 20 minutes between classes remains even and unchanged.
- **Abbreviate 4:40-5:00 break-** Reducing the break between 4:40 – 5:00 p.m. by 10 minutes and adding it to the earlier break: So, the schedule would be 10:40 -1:30 (30-minute break), 2:00 p.m. – 4:50 p.m. (10-minute break), 5:00 p.m.-evening classes. The advantage is that only one class time is changed from SJU's standard day schedule.
- **Cut other day breaks by 5 minutes:** Reducing breaks at 10:20 and 4:40 by 5 minutes each and adding them to lunch period: 7:30 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. (20-minute break), 10:30-1:20 (30-minute lunch), 1:50-4:40 (20-minute break and no change from present), 5 p.m. to evening.

During and after this report, Joanne Llerandi from University Registrar was available to field questions and for discussion. Per Ms. Llerandi, for a Fall 2024 change to be put into effect, something would have to be decided now. The issue was brought up that students were not the ones who raised the issue of the short lunch break, and no students were polled regarding this issue.

Having enough of the Senate Body in attendance for a quorum, a motion was taken for an immediate vote. The decision for “No Change” was seemingly unanimous by a show of hands.

Faculty Affairs Committee: No Report

Student Affairs Committee: No Report

Updates

- **MSCHE**

Dr. Olga Hilas and Dean Wolfinger provided us with an update on the Middle States Self-Study Process. They used the Middle States accreditation page from our St. John's website as a point of reference: <https://www.stjohns.edu/middle-states-accreditation>. They encouraged everyone to become familiar with this page.

They thanked the steering committees, the working groups, and Linda Shannon for all their hard work. Over the past year Dean Wolfinger and Dr. Hilas have met twice a month with steering committees, and now they are meeting with them once a month as well as with working groups. Working groups have been reviewing past reports, concentrating on repeating what we did well in the past and determining areas in need of improvement / enhancement. The working groups submitted first drafts for review, and everyone was heartily encouraged to attend upcoming Town Hall meetings. We are on schedule and adhering to our timeline within the approved Self-Study Design (SSD) 2025 and had a strong showing at the Middle States conference in December of 2023.

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness has been established under Marc Gillespie, Ph.D., Senior Vice Provost for Clinical Operations, Graduate Research, Assessment, Accreditation, and Institutional Analytics. An offer has been extended to hire a Middle States Research Assistant to help us through this important process.

The Town Hall meetings schedule for Spring 2024 has been disseminated to the University community and posted on our webpage. Great emphasis was placed on the importance of participation by and feedback

from all constituents of our university. The following upcoming important dates were noted:

- May 2024- Submission of final Working Group drafts
- Summer 2024- Review and compilation of a single report
- September/October 2024- Report finalization and distribution to University community for review
- October/November 2024- Town Halls (TBD) for final feedback from all constituents of the University
- January/February 2025- Final draft ready for MARCOM and MSCHE submission
- Spring 2025- Middle States sets up accreditation visit for our University

Provost Møller thanked Dean Wolfinger, Dr. Hilaris, and everyone involved for their hard work.

New Business

- **FAFSA Simplification Process**

Provost Møller spoke about the new FAFSA simplification process. There are still technical issues and delays with FAFSA, and this will affect how and when we send out our financial packages.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Kenny