

**St. John's University**  
**New York**  
**University Senate Meeting**  
**Monday, April 15, 2024**

**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. Smita Guha, Prof. Lucy Heckman, Dr. Dianella Howarth, Dean Luca Iandoli, Ms. Sarah Kelly, J.D., Dr. W. Jean Kwon (virtual), Dr. Ming-Hui Li, Dr. Gary Martin (virtual), Provost Simon Møller, Prof. William Murphy, Dr. Maciek Nowak, Prof. Maria Pirrone, Rev. Aidan Rooney, Dr. Susan Rosenberg, Dr. Francis Schanne, President Rev. Brian Shanley O.P., Ms. Jessica Siniscalchi (student senator), Prof. Anthony Todman, Prof. Jacob Todres, Dr. Ahmad Vakil, Dr. James Vorbach, Dean James Wolfinger, Ms. Keaton Wong, J.D.

**Excused:** Dr. Uma Balakrishnan, Dr. Zachary Davis, Dr. Anne Galvin, Dr. Granville Ganter, Prof. Elayne Greenberg, Ms. Sharon Hewitt-Watkins, Dr. Anne Lin, Dr. Stephen Llano, Prof. Martha Mackey, Dr. Lauren Moskowitz, Ms. Christina Quartararo, Mr. Michael Simons, J.D., Dr. Marina Soroichinski

**Absent:** Dr. Ivan Abel, Dr. Charles Clark, Dr. Alexander Katz, Dr. Alejandro Quintana, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Prof. Anthony Sabino, Dr. Mostafa Sadoqi, Dr. Lequez Spearman, Dr. Joan Tropnas

**Also Present:** Mr. Sean Brown, Ms. Jill Christensen, Dr. Phyllis Conn, Dr. Marilyn Dono-Koulouris (virtual), Dr. Roberta Hayes (virtual), Mr. Max Hergenrother, Ms. Christine Kenny, Ms. Joanne Llerandi, Mr. Michael McLeod, Dr. Jay Nathan, Ms. Kristin Quinn, Mr. Eric Rienecker, Dr. Sharon See, Ms. Linda Shannon, J.D., Ms. Jennifer Strauss, Mr. Doug Trani, Prof. Benjamin Turner, Ms. Samantha Wright

**Introduction and Opening Prayer**

The meeting began at 3:19 p.m. After a brief welcome and introduction, Dr. Møller invited Ms. Jessica Siniscalchi, Graduate Student Senator, to recite the opening prayer.

**Approval of the Minutes of February 12, 2024.**

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, February 12, 2024, were unanimously approved as distributed.

**Committee Reports**

**By-Laws Committee:** No Report.

**Budget Committee:** Michael McLeod, Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning, reported that some members of the Budget Committee met on April 9, 2024, at which time:

- There was an update on the FY24 forecast as of December 31, 2023, and highlighted the forecasted revenue improvements and anticipated expense savings as compared to the budget.
- The Budget Committee was also informed that the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees will be receiving a FY24 forecast update as of March 31, 2024, at their meeting on May 13, 2024.
- There was also a discussion relating to the FY25 operating budget which is in the final stages of development and will be presented for review and ratification at the May Finance Committee and full board meetings.

**Educational Programs and Development Committee:** No Report

**Faculty Affairs Committee:** No Report

**Student Affairs Committee:** Sarah Kelly, Vice President for Student Success, reported that this committee met

twice over the past few months. She reported the information from the meetings and provided two informative handouts: One from the Center for Student Success and the other from The Department of Student Wellness. Some highlights from the handouts and presentation are:

- The Center for Student Success is a one-stop hub of resources for first-year students and includes academic and career advising, academic achievement resources, tutoring, mentoring, and other first-year transition programs.
- Some areas of the Center for Student Success that can assist students are Academic Advisement, First-Year programs, Academic Achievement, Case management, and career advisement. Each of these areas is discussed in detail in the handout.
- Academic Achievement, which includes tutoring and workshops, is available to ALL SJU students, not just first-year.
- The Department of Student Wellness uses a wide variety of methods to help students destress, become healthier, reduce anxiety, and have a successful and fun college experience.
- Within the Department of Student Wellness, there are many areas dedicated in different ways to Student Wellness:
  - Campus Recreation (CREC)
  - Center for Counseling & Consultation (CCC)
    - Office of Disability Services (ODS)
    - Student Health Services (SHS)
  - Sexual Violence Outreach, Awareness, & Response (SOAR)
  - Wellness Education & Prevention (Wellness)
- Contact information for each of these groups was provided in the handouts.
- Senators are asked to bring this information back to their constituents.

**Athletic Compliance Update-** The team from Athletics, which included members from the Athletics Executive Team, introduced themselves and discussed recent NCAA changes. They introduced the Holistic Model of Benefits for Student-Athletes. This model requires all schools to attest that they provide career counseling and life skills programming that additionally includes, at a minimum, the following modules: Mental health, strength and conditioning, nutrition, name, image, and likeness, financial literacy, transfer requirements, career preparation, diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, and sexual violence prevention. With the adoption of the holistic model, three other membership expectation referrals are considered complete:

- Institutions will be required to annually attest that they provide student-athletes with access to education and programming in identified areas (starting August 1, 2024).
- Institutions must provide a dedicated pathway for student-athletes to access full-time clinical services of a licensed mental health professional.
- Establishment of an annual attestation requirement for institutions regarding career services availability for current and former student athletes.

Sharon See, Faculty Athletic Representative, acts as a liaison between faculty and the student-athlete.

- She reports to the Office of the President and works with the Office of Student Services and the Office of Compliance to review enrollment and academic eligibility. She also recently has been fielding questions regarding AI and athletics.
- Dr. See stressed that student-athletes should always introduce themselves to faculty and that coaches should not directly reach out to faculty, they should discuss any issues with Dr. See, or staff in the Office of Student Services.
- Should you have any academic integrity concerns related to a student-athlete's academic performance, please contact Faculty Athletics Representative (FAR), Dr. Sharon See, at 718- 990-2474 or [sees@stjohns.edu](mailto:sees@stjohns.edu)

Eric Rienecker, Senior Associate Athletic Director, shared how St. John's University has been working towards this holistic model for years and every aspect of the student-athlete's life will be addressed as we strive to do more for

the student. He also informed the group that for the past few years, diversity, equity, and inclusion have been a part of student-athlete wellness programs, such as “Solidarity Week.” When asked what senators can do to assist, Eric said structure and support, as well as communication, is so important. He asked everyone present to relay the information that these services are available.

Kristin Quinn, Senior Associate Athletic Director, is the senior women’s administrator and is also concerned with the overall holistic health of student-athletes. She shared that each sport has its own sport administrator.

Jill Christensen, Senior Associate Athletics Director for Sports Wellness, serves as the primary athletics healthcare administrator and oversees the health and well-being of our athletes.

- She manages health and wellness programs, incorporating nutrition, mental health, injury prevention, and treatment strategies for over 300 student-athletes at St. John’s University.
- She discussed the medical insurance coverage that the student-athletes have as well as concussion management.
- In 2023, the NCAA conducted a student wellness survey, the results were noted in their power-point presentation.
- Many schools are moving toward having full-time mental health advisors and counselors. She noted our in-house resources, such as dietitians, nutritionists, and mental health care practitioners. She advised that SPORTSTRATA supplements the efforts of our part-time healthcare workers.

**FAFSA Update-** Samantha Wright, Chief Enrollment Officer, advised the group of the changes made to the new FAFSA application and the challenges it presents, how these changes affect our university, and what has been done to counteract these changes. Some of the changes mentioned were:

- Question count was simplified, going from 108 questions to 40.
- Expected Family Contribution is now called Student Aid Index
- FAFSA application launch was delayed; historically high school seniors could apply for financial aid as early as October 1 of their senior years. This year, the FAFSA application was not live until December 30 and experienced significant technical issues.
- Pell Grant calculation changes
- Family small business income is now taken into consideration.
- Having multiple children in college at the same time is no longer taken into consideration.

Because of the issues and delays by the U.S. Department of Education, higher education institutions have been significantly delayed in providing students with a financial aid package. Nationally, FAFSA filing is down 30% over last year as a result of the many challenges and issues that have persisted. Ms. Wright shared some of the many ways the enrollment and financial teams have gotten ahead of these issues:

- Increased merit scholarships for incoming first year students, offsetting dependency upon need-based financial aid
- Consistent and regular messaging to high school partners, students, and their families, advising them of the FAFSA changes and providing guidance as to things they can do despite challenges and delays from the U.S. Department of Education
- For the first time ever, we made the undergraduate deposit refundable.
- Friendly “HUG” messages sent to prospective students to make them feel welcome

Provost Møller expressed his gratitude to Ms. Wright and her team for the hard work and many hours they have spent on this.

#### **Artificial Intelligence Academic Task Force Update:**

CCPS Dean, Luca Iandoli presented as the chairperson of the AI Academic Task Force. This task force consists of a committee chair and an advisory board made up of Deans, Senior Vice Provost Marc Gillespie, and Chief Information Officer Anne Rocco Pacione. Dean Iandoli identified the mandate of this task force to be:

- Supporting the academic community of St. John’s University with growing awareness about Generative AI (G-AI) and fostering critical assessment and adoption.

- Making tools and policies available for integrating G-AI into classrooms and research
- Encouraging curricula assessment, improvement, and re-design to protect and enhance the employability of our students.

AI and Employability:

- We need to identify the skills students need to be employable while emphasizing that they need to learn to collaborate with AI to enhance their skills.
- One of the challenges is for us to help students navigate a job search landscape where AI is increasingly used for hiring.

A Timeline was presented:

- Subcommittee Reports- December 2023
- Faculty Listening and Demo Session Survey/ Policy and Training Plan Draft- January 2024
- AI Admin and Academic Task Force Review
- Training Production and Test- April 2024
- Instructor Training and Guidelines Released- May 2024
- Student Training Released Community of Practice Building- Fall 2024

An employee policy, as well as policies and guidelines for students, researchers, and instructors, will be created by the AI Task Force. There will be a 3-4- hour introductory, asynchronous training course for instructors. There will also be a similar course available to students.

Additional future resources were noted:

- Gen-AI web landing page on the University web site
- Repository of learning resources
- Advanced training (third party)
- Community event with an AI focus (At both school level and University level)
- AI learning technology needs: on the agenda of the next meeting of the Academic Technology Governance task force

Provost Møller thanked everyone for their service on the University Senate.

The agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Kenny