

St. John's University
New York
University Senate Meeting
Monday, April 7, 2025

University Center, Suite D

Present: Dr. Ivan Abel, Shannon Bassaragh (Student Senator), Dr. Sophie Bell, Dr. Sandra Beysolow, Dr. Alina Camacho-Gingerich, Dr. Eunhye Choi, Dr. Barbara Cozza, Dr. Zachary Davis, Dr. Joan DeBello, Dean Teresa Delgado, Dr. Nancy DiTunnariello, Rev. Patrick Flanagan, Dr. Almerinda Forte, Dean Caroline Fuchs, Dr. Granville Ganter, Dr. Smita Guha, Prof. Lucy Heckman, Dean Luca Iandoli, Dr. Azzedine Layachi, Dean Anne Lin, Joanne Llerandi, Dr. Gary Martin, Dr. Simon Møller, Prof. William Murphy, Dr. Aaron Muth, Dean Maciek Nowak, Prof. Emma Quinn, Dr. Alejandro Quintana, Jeffrey Rada (Student Senator), Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Rev. Aidan Rooney, Dr. Susan Rosenberg, Dr. Joseph Serafin, Rev. Brian Shanley O.P., Linda Shannon, J.D., Dr. Marina Soroichinski, Prof. Jacob Todres, Dr. Joan Tropnas, Dr. Ahmad Vakil, Dean James Wolfinger, Keaton Wong, J.D.

Excused: Dr. Ching-Nan Chao, Dr. Dianella Howarth, Dr. W. Jean Kwon, Dr. Ming Hui-Li, Prof. Martha Mackey, Donna McMonagle, Dr. Omar Montana, Prof. Maria Pirrone, Christina Quartararo, Jasmine Rosario (Student Senator), Dr. James Vorbach

Absent: Maria Aguirre Mora (Student Senator), Prof. Gina Calabrese, Dr. Charles Clark, Katrina Diano (Student Senator), Dean Jelani Jefferson-Exum, Dr. Stephen Llano, Samuel Ortner (Student Senator), Prof. Anthony Sabino, Dr. Lequez Spearman, Timothy Stopyra (Student Senator)

Also Present: Sean Brown, Dr. Christoforos Christoforou, Prof. Raymond Howell, Christine Kenny, Dr. Jay Nathan, Dr. Sharon See, Prof. Kathryn Shaughnessy, Prof. Benjamin Turner

Introduction and Opening Prayer

The meeting began at 3:20 p.m. After a brief welcome and introduction, Dr. Møller invited Graduate Student Senator Shannon Bassaragh to recite the opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes of February 10, 2025.

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, February 10, 2025, were unanimously approved as distributed.

Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: Dr. Nancy DiTunnariello advised that this committee met on March 24, 2025. Reviewing records from 1968-1977 revealed that during the 1970's the University Senate and its respective committees met approximately once per month unless cancelled by the university president. The committee affirmed that the core focus of the Senate and its committees should remain on academic governance. As the Senate's By-laws are grounded in the university statutes, the committee will continue to respond to relevant issues as they arise.

Budget Committee: No Report.

Faculty Affairs Committee: No Report.

Educational Programs and Development Committee: No Report.

Student Affairs Committee: No Report.

Updates

- **Athletic Compliance**

Dr. Sharon See, Faculty Athletic Representative, acts as a liaison between faculty and student-athletes. Some of her key responsibilities include:

- Faculty Liaison to Athletics
- Academic Integrity
- Works with the Office of Student Services
- Works with the Office of Compliance to review enrollment and academic eligibility
- Student-Athlete Orientation
- Administer NCAA Surveys
- Sports Excellence Awards
- Chair of the Big East FARs

Dr. See stressed that there must be open lines of communication, and that faculty can contact her office with any concerns.

Next, Raymond Howell, Senior Director of Academic Support Services for Student-Athletes, presented topics concerning Demographics, Academic Progress, and Incoming Student Transfer Process. Some key points which emerged were:

- Informative Student-Athlete Population numbers and statistics
- Enrollment and major preferences from each school for Student-Athletes
- Student-Athletes enrolled in President's Society for 2025-2026 have more than doubled from 2024-2025
- Explanation of Progress Toward Degree Annual Credit-Hour NCAA Requirements for each year
- New Transfer Recruiting Workflow

- **Provost's Updates:**

Middle States

Provost Møller summarized the positive results of the Middle States reaccreditation site visit as we await the final outcome in the coming months. He also expressed his sincere appreciation to all who worked on the Middle States self-study project for the past three years.

Enrollment

- Accepted Students Day on April 5, 2025, was a great success, with the highest number of students in attendance since 2019.
- To date, first-time/full-time student application numbers are higher than last year, as are admitted students, and net deposits. Dr. Møller stated that although the enrollment funnel is trending in a positive direction, we will not know the final enrollment outcome until the fall. Graduate student applications are slightly higher than last year at this time.

Academic Efficiency

- St. John's has approximately 1,000 fewer students this fall as compared to fall of 2021.
- The Provost Office team meets with the Deans and the Registrar every Friday to discuss and implement strategic and thoughtful solutions to increase academic efficiency and to reduce expenses without compromising the academic experience and outcomes of students.
- Unlike during the COVID pandemic, we do not receive federal funds to assist us through this challenging period.
- The Provost reminded everyone that almost all universities are grappling with declining student demographics and budgetary challenges.

- As we work through the current budget situation, we must reduce research reductions and put research leaves on hold.

President Shanley advised everyone that he has been very busy preparing for the Capital Campaign, and described the three buckets that would be most beneficial for donors to contribute to:

- Student Scholarships
- Facilities
- Academic Programs

There was some discussion regarding what is being done to protect our international students. Provost Møller advised the situation is being carefully monitored by our International Student Office and tailored advice is being provided as situations arise.

New Business

There being no new business to report and the agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Kenny