

**St. John's University
New York
University Senate Meeting
Monday, September 29, 2025**

University Center, Suite D, and Microsoft Teams Virtual

Present: Dr. Eric Akuoko, Dr. Sophie Bell, Dr. Sandra Beysolow, Dr. Alina Camacho-Gingerich, Dr. Eunhye Choi, Dr. Barbara Cozza, Dr. Joan DeBello, Dr. Shruti Deshpande, Dr. Nancy DiTunnariello, Rev. Patrick Flanagan, Dr. Almerinda Forte, Dean Caroline Fuchs, Dr. Granville Ganter, Prof. Lucy Heckman, Dr. Dianella Howarth, Dean Luca Iandoli, Dr. Nouna Jalilzadeh, Dr. Azzedine Layachi, Dr. Zhuoyao Li, Joanne Llerandi, Jackie Lochrie, Prof. Martha Mackey, Dr. Simon Møller, Dr. John Neumann, Prof. Colleen Parker, Prof. Maria Pirrone, Christina Quartararo, Prof. Emma Quinn, Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, Rev. Aidan Rooney, Anthony Rosario (Grad Student Senator), Jasmine Rosario (Student Senator) Dr. Susan Rosenberg, Dr. Nicos Scordis (Virtual), Linda Shannon, J.D., Dr. Marina Sorochinski, Dr. Lequez Spearman, Prof. Jacob Todres, Dr. Joan Tropnas, Dr. James Vorbach, Dean James Wolfinger, Keaton Wong, J.D., Dr. Sabesan Yoganathan

Excused: Dr. Ivan Abel, Dean Teresa Delgado, Dean Jelani Jefferson Exum, Dean Anne Lin, Prof. William Murphy, Dr. Jay Nathan, Dean Maciek Nowak, Dr. Joseph Serafin, Rev. Brian Shanley, O.P., Dr. Ahmad Vakil

Absent: Dr. Raymond DiGiuseppe, Dr. Stephen Llano, Dr. Alejandro Quintana, Prof. Anthony Sabino, Dr. Mostafa Sadoqi

Also Present: Sean Brown, Dr. Phyllis Conn, Dr. Jeremy Cruz, Christine Kenny, Prof. Kathryn Shaughnessy, Prof. Benjamin Turner

Introduction and Opening Prayer

The meeting began at 3:17 p.m. After a brief welcome and introduction, Dr. Møller invited Dr. Almerinda Forte to recite the opening prayer.

Approval of the Minutes of April 7, 2025.

The minutes from the meeting held on Monday, April 7, 2025, were unanimously approved as distributed.

Committee Election Reports

Committees were asked to select a chairperson before the November meeting and Christine Kenny was re-elected as University Senate Secretary by acclamation. Provost Møller announced there were two open spots on Senate Committees, one on Budget and the other on Student Affairs, and asked for nominations from the group. Dr. Serafin was nominated but was not there to comment so Christine will follow up with him.

Committee Reports

By-Laws Committee: No Report.

Budget Committee: No Report.

Faculty Affairs Committee: No Report.

Educational Programs and Development Committee: No Report.

Student Affairs Committee: No Report.

Updates

- **Provost's Updates:**

- **Enrollment**

- First-time, full-time undergraduate student enrollment is up 11.5%, transfer student enrollment is up 10%, and graduate student enrollment is up 5% compared to Fall 2024
- Total student enrollment is down 1% (100 students)

- Challenges will increase moving forward as the number of NYS high school graduates will decrease by 27% in the next 15 years and fewer high school graduates are expected to attend college.
- All data shows, including our own data, that online graduate programs are increasing while face-to-face is decreasing.

Academic Advising

- Brad Baker has provided a recommendation to revise academic advisement procedures to improve retention rates and student services.
- He completed 6 months of assessment of current practices including extensive interviews with deans, faculty, students, advisors, etc.
- Some key observations included:
 - Students who already have a declared major prefer to be advised by their school or college
 - The “hand-off” between the Student Success Center and the Schools and Colleges is not optimal
 - Advising across campus is inconsistent
- The overall recommendation is to have students with a declared major be advised in their Schools and Colleges whilst the Student Success Center will be dedicated to at-risk students, including LST and undecided students.

On-Line Learning Update- Chief On-Line Learning Officer Michael Koskinen

- Only 4% of all St. John’s students study in fully online programs, we are behind other schools
- Student preferences are changing
- Initially, this will be more centered on graduate education
- One area of interest is offering adult students the opportunity to come back to obtain a degree
- Offer options for accelerated semesters to earn degrees faster
- Student Success management for students - Come to Portal and have a success coach
- New online website is being developed which can link to our regular St. John’s site
- Existing programs, same syllabi and content, just online modality
- Roadmap: Offer them a path to graduation
- Faculty can work with an Instructional Design Team
- Online tuition rate to better compete in the market
- Develop a brand - Make St. John’s known as a destination for online education

Compliance Updates

Accountability in Education

Since the 1965 Higher Education Act of 1965 and its revisions, to ensure taxpayers and students are getting what is paid for, subsequent legislation and negotiated rulemaking results in these requirements which enable us to keep our federal funding:

- Textbook disclosures
- Misrepresentation
 - In-person programs must offer in-person classes.
 - Switching modalities once classes have started is strictly prohibited.
 - If a faculty member cannot teach an assigned course, the course must be delivered in same modality as when student originally registered. If it can’t, all students must be notified and consent to a different modality in writing or the student must be re-advised and put into another class.

- Borrowers Defense to Repayment
- Attendance Verification
- Professional Licensure Disclosures
- FVT-GE and “Do No Harm”

In May of 2025, the Trump administration defended Biden’s Value for Education policy resulting in deeper scrutiny on higher education. Here are some key points:

- Department of Education wants to ensure students come out with less debt and higher paying careers as opposed to high school graduates in same area
- FVT-GE programs will appear on US-ED webpage as “high debt burden programs” and/or “low earnings programs.” Students would have to sign a disclosure first.
- “Do No Harm”, a legislative act of congress with bipartisan support, addresses low cohort median earnings programs and may result in loss of federal aid.

New Business

There being no new business to report and the agenda having been completed, the meeting was adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Kenny