

## Minutes for the 155<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Faculty Senate

for Thursday, March 17, 2022 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm held virtually.

### Attendance:

John Verzani, Susan Holak, Deborah De Simone, Jane Marcus-Delgado, Brian Farr, John Wing, Valerie Forrestal, Susan Imberman, Andrew Colbeck, Jonathan Peters, Tom Tellefsen, Alan Benimoff, Timothy Lynch, Michael Parrish, Christine Flynn Saulnier, Lee Papa, Simone Wegge, Angelo Bongiorno, Catherine Lavender, Mark D. White, Mike Cavagnero, Michael Chiacchiero, Comfort Asanbe, Carles Sola Belda, Cynthia Chris, Wilma Jones, Mark Feuer, Katie Cumiskey, Jay Arena, John Lawrence, Gene Fellner, George Wang, Maryann Feola, Sarolta Takács, Roshen Hendrickson, Lucas Marchante-Aragon, Michael Paris, Orit D. Gruber, Sylvia Kahan, Alfred Levine, Carlo Lancellotti, Zaghoul Ahmed, Siona Wilson, Alyson Bardsley, Cindy Wong, Yumei Huo, Brian Farr, Patti Gross, Vandana Chaudhry, Alan Lyons

### Guests:

Maxwell Velikodny, Heidi Bertels, Patricia Kahn, Jennifer Borrero, Suzy Shepardson, Robert Wallace, Mary Murphy, Rosane Gertner, Juline Robinson, Warrick Bell, Emmanuel Esperance Jr., Angelina Raio, Vinay Vaishampayan, Amy Stempler, Debby Meise, Joyce Taylor, Darryl Hill, Maria Rice Bellamy, Jennifer Durando, Hope Berte, Jessica Stein, Christina Hagedorn, Koby Kohulan, Donna Elwell, Stephanie Gonzalez Allen, Celeste Del Maestro, Jasmine Cardona, Mark Lewental, Ralf Peetz, Sharon Christian, Danielle Dimitrov, Nina Del Gatto, Katrina Fama, Mikael Vejdemo-Johansson, Barbara Cohen, Doriann Pieve-Hyland, Manuela Alongi, Alexander Scott, Terri Sangiorgio, Thomas Lauria, Stephen Ferst, Byron Taylor, Shuqun Zhang, Florinda Mattia, Isabel Rechberg, Jessica Collura, Catherine Ferrara, Stefanie Gardiner, Danielle Dimitrov, Veronica Dimeglio, Qiao-Sheng Hu, Winnie Brophy, Ruth Silverberg, Janine Scotto, Linda Conte, Michael Volpe, César Arenas-Mena

- I. Approval the agenda.  
*Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.*
- II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate of February 17, 202, with the acknowledgement that they will be revised in order to make them ADA compliant.  
*Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.*

### III. Executive Committee Report: Appendix A

Question: Regarding the push for tenure track lines as we get high quality lecture lines, do we know what the wait and road to that is, for this will create a two tiered faculty which will have implications going forward?

Answer: This very issue was brought to the Administration, and they brought it to CUNY and I believe we need to keep working through our existing structures to lobby and demand more tenure track faculty. We have to continue to make arguments for tenure track faculty.

Comment: Even though CUNY states that the lecturer lines are to appeal to diversity, I appeal to everyone to hire the most qualified – do not just hire the minority candidate. Otherwise we will have a two tiered faculty where minority faculty are relegated to the lecture lines.

Comment: There may be money coming to CUNY far beyond that set for the lecturer lines for hiring full-time faculty (about 50 million). The hope is to have funding for fulltime faculty next year and not just lecturer lines.

#### IV. Provost's Report : Appendix B

Provost's Comment about the Lecturer initiative: There will be significant funding coming for additional faculty lines. The lecturer line initiative tries to solve many issues: (1) having greater permanent faculty expertise in the 100 & 200 courses, which would positively impact student success and retention, (2) increase faculty diversity. We are highly aware of the potential for a two tier system and agree that the same focus on diversifying the faculty needs to hold at all levels of hiring.

Questions: Is there a prohibition for lecturers teaching 300 or 400 level courses?

Answer: Not at all! But if you look at the statistics of who teaches the lower level courses, they are overwhelmingly taught by adjuncts.

#### V. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate

##### *a.* Admissions Committee – none

Comment: Friendly suggestion for a Community -Wide Town Hall on Admissions, Enrollment, & Retention – where all the good work that is being done is shared and more ideas are generated on how to further this good work.

Comment: Suggestion for the 5th Thursdays to be set aside for Town Halls

##### *b.* Curricular Committees – Chairs:

- i. General Education Committee –
- ii. Graduate Studies Committee –
- iii. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee –

#### **Consent Agenda for Thursday, March 17, 2022**

#### **AIII. CHANGE IN EXISTING DEGREES**

AIII.1 Department of Engineering and Environmental Sciences: Earth Environmental Sciences BS

AIII.2 Department of Engineering and Environmental Sciences and School of Education: Earth Sciences 7-12 BS

AIII.3 Department of Engineering and Environmental Sciences: Electrical Engineering ME

AIII.4 Department of Engineering and Environmental Sciences: Double Counting Policy for Electrical Engineering ME

#### **AIV. NEW COURSES**

AIV.1 Department of Engineering and Environmental Sciences: ESC 305 Physical Oceanography

AIV.2 Department of English: ENG 111P Introduction to College Writing Plus

AIV.3 Department of Engineering and Environmental Sciences: ELE 798 Thesis I

AIV.4 Department of Engineering and Environmental Sciences: ELE 799 Thesis II

#### **AV. CHANGE IN EXISTING COURSE**

AV.1 Program in African and African Diaspora Studies and Department of Performing and Creative Arts: AAD/DRA 202 African American Drama

AV.2 Program in African and African Diaspora Studies and Department of Political Science & Global Affairs: AAD/GEG 216 Geography of Africa

AV.3 Program in African and African Diaspora Studies and Department of Political Science & Global Affairs: AAD/POL 321 Race, Law, and Public Policy in the Contemporary United States

AV.4 Program in African and African Diaspora Studies, Program in International Studies and Department of Sociology/Anthropology: AAD/ANT/INT/SOC 235 Policing and Mass Incarceration

AV.5 Program in African and African Diaspora Studies, Program in International Studies and Department of Sociology/Anthropology: AAD/ANT/INT/SOC 332 Social Movements and Social Justice

AV.6 Program in African and African Diaspora Studies and Department of English: AAD/ENH 307 African Literature

AV.7 Program in African and African Diaspora Studies, Program in American Studies, and Department of English: AAD/AMS/ENL 377 The African American Literary Tradition

AV.8 Department of Engineering and Environmental Sciences: GEO 102 Earth Systems

AV.9 Department of Engineering and Environmental Sciences: GEO 210 Earth Materials

AV.10 Department of English: ENG 111 Introduction to College Writing

AV.11 Department of Accounting and Finance: FNC 111 Personal Financial Management

*Consent agenda was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously*

#### **Items not on the Consent Agenda for Thursday, March 17, 2022**

#### **SECTION AVII: AFFILIATION AGREEMENTS**

AVII.1: COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND AND CHUO UNIVERSITY (TOKOYO, JAPAN): INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE AUTHORIZATION

*Motion was made that the Faculty Senate support the affiliation agreement between The College of Staten Island and Chuo University. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.*

*c. Course & Standing – none*

*d. Library Committee – Hours are back to pre-pandemic times*

*(M-Th 9-9; Fr. 9-8; Sa. & Su. 1-5)*

*e. Academic Research Committee – none*

*f. Academic Facilities Committee – none*

*g. Academic Freedom Committee – none*

*h. Academic Technology Committee – none*

*i. Faculty Personnel Policy Committee – none*

VI. University Faculty Senate Report – The senate is discussing course modalities and the hiring of minority faculty to help rectify the unequal distribution of faculty.

- VII. Old Business- none
- VIII. New Business – Call to consider and research providing ASL interpretation for the Faculty Senate and College Council meetings regardless of modality

Recommendation that this policy be put through one of the FS subcommittees so it can be properly vetted

- IX. Adjournment. *Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously at 3:28 pm.*

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report March 17, 2022**

I am pleased to submit this report on behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. As we head into spring, we are optimistic that CSI is emerging from the COVID pandemic and we are rebuilding our community. We recognize the important strides that President Lynch has made in improving communication on campus and his work to ensure stronger ties of shared governance and transparent leadership. At the same time, this hopeful perspective is clouded by the atrocities of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and we stand in solidarity with the victims of this aggression. We are grateful for the expertise of our faculty members, particularly Professors Susan Smith-Peter and Anat Niv Solomon, who have provided us with important analysis of this devastating conflict. I can't help but take the opportunity to emphasize the critical role of scholarly research among our faculty, as our professors' work enriches and informs our lives.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with the provost, the deans and the associate provosts on March 8. We were pleased to learn that the College has restored some of its funding for faculty members' research travel and plans to continue to seek additional support. Despite its ongoing budgetary shortfalls and severe drop in enrollment, CSI will continue to honor its obligations to faculty in areas such as sabbaticals, and will also pursue the hiring of additional faculty. Although CUNY has implemented a large initiative in hiring full time lecturers, we urge CSI and CUNY to hire faculty members on tenure tracks with greater possibilities for professional advancement. Tenure track faculty provide the intellectual lifeblood of the institution and we cannot attract and retain students – or provide them with a first-quality education – without a solid corps of academic scholars.

The provost informed us that a survey on course modalities was recently sent to students. We are looking forward to the results of the survey and continue to have discussions about the future of online and remote instruction. We will be working with the Administration to discuss the assessment of student success in

online learning, and we are aware that these conversations are also taking place at the university level. We encourage all faculty and staff that are interested in weighing in on their online experiences to engage in this discussion by contacting us with your thoughts.

We have also been addressing concerns about the existence of ad hoc committees and task forces created by the previous presidency that continue to function in parallel with our established bodies of shared governance. We urge the president and provost to incorporate such groups into existing structures to increase transparency, support reporting mechanisms, and eliminate redundancies.

We raised the issues of office and classroom cleanliness and maintenance with the provost, especially the problem of mice. We have been assured that the College is working to hire more cleaning staff, and we've been asked to report problems in this area to Vice President Hope Berte, who is in charge of facilities. We also noted the ubiquitous presence of geese on campus.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the hard work of everyone who has pulled together to complete CSI's Middle States process. It has truly been a herculean effort and an exemplary model of shared governance, and we are grateful for your excellent work on behalf of all of us.

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Marcus-Delgado

Chair

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Provost's Report March 17, 2022**

I am excited that we will be welcoming our Middle States Accreditation team virtually to CSI on March 27-30. I would again like to thank all the faculty, staff, and students who participated in the self-study process, and particularly steering committee members Chris Miller, Dante Tawfeeq, and Tara Mastrorilli for shepherding this process so conscientiously. We will share details of the schedule for the visit when they have been confirmed by the evaluation team. In the meantime, Chris and Tara have prepared a very useful summary of the self-study report and the standards on which we will be evaluated that was distributed to all of you earlier this week.

As we finalize the fall schedule, we have ended up with a section distribution of about 75% in-person, 9% hybrid, and 16% online. This compares to the current semester ratios of 66% in person, 6% hybrid, and 26% online. Contrary to previous communications, CUNY has now specified that students will not have to be vaccinated and boosted to take entirely online courses, but any students who want to come to campus for any purpose will need both vaccination and current boosters.

I wanted to provide an update on current and pending research funding. The Provost's research foundation account was very recently replenished through stimulus funds, and increased support of campus research will commence immediately. Those faculty who have had issues with expending startup funding should now have full access to those funds through their Dean's offices, which have also received travel funding. Look for the RFPs we will be issuing shortly for competitive research support in the form of Provost's grants, Dean's Faculty Research Awards, and additional travel funding.

During the academic year, Associate Provost Dante Tawfeeq has been working with Deans and Chairs to expend Graduate Research and Teaching Initiative funding, which comes to CSI from CUNY for the purpose of procuring research and teaching equipment. So far \$185K in GRTI funding has either been spent or is in procurement to support needs in the departments of Accounting and Finance, Biology, Chemistry, English, Social Work and Psychology. CUNY's office of research has also earmarked \$58K for the purchase of a refurbished confocal microscope for the CSI Imaging Facility.

As I'm sure he will discuss later, President Lynch has recently announced three Presidential Faculty Fellows for the 2022-2023 academic year. These fellows, one each focusing on Research, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion, and Student Success, respectively, will allow the fellows to focus on these critical issues for CSI while also providing opportunities for professional development.

We will also be reviving the Dolphin Awards this year following a pandemic hiatus. Look for a request for nominations within the next few days, and the ceremony will be held at the end of the semester in the library, as in the past. We are adding one new award, to honor efforts in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone about tomorrow's online celebration of the life of Professor Emeritus Arnie Kantrowitz, who passed away in January. It will take place via Zoom at noon tomorrow. I would like to acknowledge all the work that Professors Maryann Feola and Matt Brim and numerous campus offices put into preparing what should be a moving and informative tribute to this beloved member of our campus community. With that, I will wish you all a happy St. Patrick's evening and can field any questions.