

Minutes of the 166th Meeting of the Faculty Senate

Thursday, September 21st, 2023 from 3:30 to 4:30 pm in person & virtually.

Faculty Senate (FS) Members in Attendance:

Zaghloul Ahmed, Neo Antoniades, Comfort Asanbe, Alan Benimoff, Heidi Bertels, Jason Bishop, Cynthia Chris, Vandana Chaudhry, Katie Cumiskey, David Curcio, Deborah DeSimone, Christine Flynn Saulnier, Valerie Forrestal, Rosane Gertner, Orit Gruber, Kenneth Gold, Patti Gross, Roshen Hendrickson, Susan Holak, Burnett Joiner, Wilma Jones, Catherine Lavender, Alfred Levine, Timothy Lynch, Lisa Manne, Natalia Pankratova, Lee Papa, Michael Paris, Greg Philips, Sarah Pollack, Susan Smith-Peter, Carles Sola Belda, Michael Steiper, Sarolta Takacs, Thomas Tellefsen, Mikael Vejdemo-Johansson, John Verzani, Simone Wegge, Siona Wilson, John Wing, Cindy Wong, Mark Zdziarski.

FS Members Via Zoom:

Andrew Leykam, Sharon Loverde, Philippe Marius, Jonathan Peters, MarkAaron Polger, Don Selby, George Wang, Mark White.

Guests In-Person:

Cheryl Adolph, Mohamad Akram Alrahawan, Winsome Alston, Kevin Ascolise, Alyson Bardsley, Warrick Bell, Holly Block, Thomas Chen, Sharon Christian, Jessica Collura, Brian Cortijo, Veronica DeMeglio, Aleks Dudek, Jennifer Durando, Hernan Green, Anusha Harris, Sheila Harris, Susan Imberman, Patricia Kahn, Luke Katz, Jacqueline Lamberti, Michael Lederhandler, Michael Levitas, Mark Lewental, Chase Licata, Susan Massara, Tara Mastroilli, Mohammad Moussa, Mary Murphy, Ralf Peetz, Keith Pisons, Angelina Raio, Terri Sangiorgio, Alberto Sanchez, Alexander Scott, Glenn Garbe Sheehan, Suzy Shepardson, Ruth Silverberg, Jessica Stein, Amy Stempler, Robert Wallace, Jonathan Wesley.

Guests via Zoom:

Cesar Arena-Mena, Deserie Bebe, Marta Cabral, Shannon Cammarano, Barbara Cohen, Christine Cohen, Linda Conte, Celeste Del Maestro, Danielle Dimitrov, Clarisse Domingo, Maryan Feola, Catherine Ferrara, Antonio Gallego, Yumei Huo, Doriann Hyland, Tasheema Johnson, Jane Kisto, Michele Karpeles, Koby Kohulan, Lynne Lacomis, Thomas Lauria, Jane Marcus-Delgado, Eileen Parathyras, Leonardo Pignataro, Caterina Scarimbolo, Jannine Scotto, Byron Taylor, Joyce Taylor, Brenda Valentin, Shuqun Zhang.

Meeting convened by John Wing, with parting remarks from outgoing Executive Committee Chair, Jane Marcus-Delgado, who thanked the Body for collegial and productive multiple terms.

- I. Approval the agenda.
Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

- II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate of May 18th, 2023.
Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

III. Executive Committee Report: No report.

2023-2025 Executive Committee Elections:

Nominations were opened for Chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and Susan Smith-Peter was nominated. With no other nominations, outgoing Executive Committee Secretary Deb DeSimone cast the official vote, and new Chair Susan Smith-Peter took over the meeting.

Smith-Peter called for nominations for Vice Chair, and Lisa Manne and Neo Antoniadis were nominated. A question arose and discussion ensued as to whether the candidates should each give a brief personal statement. Chair Smith-Peter called a vote on the matter and the Body voted the idea down.

Provost Michael Steiper began his report while votes were counted, pausing his report to allow the election to proceed, after thanking the outgoing Faculty Senate Executive Committee for their service. There was applause from the Body for the Committee and outgoing chair Jane Marcus-Delgado.

When all votes were counted, Lisa Manne was elected Vice Chair of the Executive Committee, and she proceeded to open nominations for Secretary, garnering one nomination, Valerie Forrestal. With no other nominations, Chair Smith-Peter cast the official vote for Forrestal.

Nominations for Member-at-Large were then opened, and Zaghoul Ahmed was nominated. With no other nominations, Secretary Forrestal cast the official vote and Ahmed was elected Member-at-Large.

With elections completed, Provost Steiper resumed his report, attached.

IV. Provost's Report : Appendix A

Discussion on CUNY Online and student research funding. Further discussion of online classes in terms of student visas.

Consent Agenda for September 21st, 2023

AIII. DEGREE CHANGES

1. DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING AND CREATIVE ARTS: NEW COURSE: ART 2XX
ANIMATION FOR ARTISTS
2. DEPARTMENT OF NURSING: NEW/EXPERIMENTAL COURSE: NRS 8XX NURSING
RESEARCH METHODS
3. DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE: NEW/EXPERIMENTAL COURSE: CSC 5XX (400-

LEVEL) NEUROMORPHIC COMPUTING

4. DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS: NEW/EXPERIMENTAL COURSE: POL 5XX (2XX) GENDER AND POLITICS

Consent agenda moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

V. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate- No reports

VI. University Faculty Senate Report –

John Verzani reported on the most recent plenary of the University Faculty Senate, where University Provost Wendy Hensel spoke with updates about CUNY's transfer initiative, CUNY Online, and the Brightspace D2L migration from Blackboard.

Transfer Initiative: CSI currently involved with 6 areas, 2 of which have already submitted their reports. Provost Hensel is pleased with the progress, but the Board resolution requires that by December 2024 the process is completed for all transfers at a junior level for students moving from a community college to the same major at a senior college. No word on which majors will be next.

D2L/Brightspace: There is some concern among faculty that the navigation will not be customizable (unlike in Blackboard), and that the design is being standardized without faculty input.

CUNY Online: There are currently about 85 CUNY Online programs, one of which is from CSI. CUNY started the semester with a target of 645 enrollees, which they far exceeded with around 2250 students fully enrolled in online degree programs with CUNY Online this Fall. CUNY would like to grow the program to 2800 in 2 years, so they're much further along than they planned for this semester. There is significant funding available for groups to create degree or certificate programs, but this is likely a one-time opportunity, and they must be distinct from programs being developed on other CUNY campuses.

Discussion ensued on Brightspace/CUNY Online. Verzani affirmed that CUNY Online courses will be expected to use Brightspace. The general vibe seems to be that faculty users like it much better than Blackboard. Provost Hensel would like **all** online classes run through the same LMS, causing concern among faculty who want more customization or to be able to use alternative software. Provost Hensel currently seems to be leaning toward standardization over innovation, since faculty feels that too strict standardization will stunt experimentation. There was then further discussion on the issue of international students not being able to take online classes when they are in the United States, due to Visa restrictions. Finally, a question was raised about intellectual property in online classes, and Verzani stated that Provost Hensel affirmed that all course content is the intellectual property of the faculty who developed the course, **unless** the development of the course was sponsored by the CUNY Online initiative, in which case Verzani believes faculty are asked, but not currently **required**, to sign a waiver. This policy may change in the future.

Jane Marcus-Delgado mentions that the Academic Freedom and Academic Technology both deal with issues of academic freedom, intellectual property, and educational technology, and both are in need of members.

- VII. Old Business –
- VIII. New Business –
- IX. Adjournment. Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously at 4:24 pm

Appendix A

Provost's Report

Colleagues, let me also welcome you back to the Fall 2023 semester. I'd like to begin by thanking Faculty Senate President Jane Marcus Delgado and the entire Faculty Senate Executive Committee for their service, their openness and generosity, and their willingness lead this body and this campus in productive dialog. Thank you.

Furthermore, I'd also like to echo much of the great news that we've heard from earlier today. Yes, total enrollment is at 10,700+--exceeding our targets. Much of this is due to an increase in new first-time students. But I want to also highlight that our retention is also up by 2% -- this seems like a small number but magnified this is incredibly important not only for our institution but for the individual students who have chosen to stay in our classes, in our majors, and in our programs. When we consider the retention of last year's freshman, the numbers are even better. Our overall first year retention is up dramatically from 61% to 69%.

How did we get here? I think that we got there by working together, by having dialog, by considering new ways of doing things in the classroom, seeing some other initiatives begin to bear fruit, and yes, by doing more. I want to recognize and thank everyone for all the hard work that went into this beginning from enrollment season last Spring, through the Summer, and into the first weeks of the semester. This includes the Chairs, the Faculty, our deans, the CAAS team, the Registrar's Office, our Chairs, and our IR --where Tara Mastroilli put new data dashboards that helped everyone to work together more effectively. I also want to particularly acknowledge how deans, chairs, and faculty worked together to bring new innovations forward in the classroom. I am proud to be part of this process, and I look forward to continuing to work with a shared sense of purpose and shared dialog as we continue to serve our students and our mission.

With that, I'd like to pivot to a few other important notes. This Fall we welcomed 19 new full-time faculty across 13 departments. I encourage you to get to know these new colleagues, ask them for a cup of coffee, and just generally lend them a hand. Not only are we concerned

about student retention, but we are also concerned about the retention of our faculty. There will be continued opportunities for formal interaction, but please consider just checking in! Let's also thank everyone in my office for helping to bring them to campus and to welcome them with our orientation. Thank you Jessica Stein and Nina Del Gatto.

Oh and let's not forget that we also have a new faculty member in the department of history, Professor and President Timothy Lynch, as you know President Lynch's work centers on immigration and ethnicity, and on American maritime history and America's relationship with the sea. Welcome President and Professor Lynch!

Speaking of faculty support, please let me also share that our search for a new associate provost for faculty success continues to move along. This position will have broad responsibilities in fostering faculty development, including deepening engagement and nurturing excellence in teaching and research. One of the first things on their desk will be the finalizing the process to return research indirects back to departments. While we are on the topic—the PSC CUNY awards cycle is now upon us – please apply and please encourage your colleagues to apply. Furthermore, I'd like to share that we increased our budget of CUNY support for research via the GRTI mechanism – and we worked to share that money widely across disciplines – I ask that you work with Lynne Lacomis to ensure that this money is spent.

With that, I'd like to share some accolades from the last few months.

First, let me share that Susan Massara, the Registrar, was just selected by AASCU to participate in major initiative to reimagine course scheduling in data-informed ways that can improve outcomes for our students.

In the Chazanoff School of Business, Chandan Acharya recently published an article in the *Journal of Knowledge Management*. Also in Management, Heidi Bertels just published an article in the *International Journal of Project Management* on mega project resilience. Lauren Bock Mullin's article on work life balance was just accepted by *International Review of Public Administration*. Over the last few months Jong Gyu Park published three articles in three different journals on leadership.

Working with his colleagues, Paolo Cappelari organized and led a group of students visiting from the University of Calabria. Thanks to Jonathan Peters, Bryan Weber, Soon Chun, and Andrew Colbeck for participating! Thanks also to CGE for your help in supporting this program.

In HSS, A section of Michael Mandiberg's "Print Wikipedia" project was acquired by the German National Museum of Books. Mandiberg's "The Real Costs" was also recently included in the Thames and Hudson World of Art Survey, Digital Art.

Jing Wang has received a postproduction award from the Sundance Institute Documentary Fund

Beatrix Reinhardt was included in a group exhibition at the University Galleries of ISU and her work was also included in festivals in Greece and New Mexico.

Chris Verene was invited to participate in a group exhibition at the Center for Photography at Woodstock. Verene's work was also selected by the Wire magazine to illustrate the obituary of jazz saxophonist Charles Gayle.

Miguel Aragon just came back from a residency in at Scuola Internazionale di Grafica di Venezia; Venice. His work was also included in a group exhibition at Instituto Municipal de Cultura, Centro Cultural Casa Purcell in Mexico and he also has a show opening tomorrow at the Beaumont Art Museum in Texas.

Beth Livensperger presented at a conference at Glasgow School of Art

Michael Morreale appeared as a guest performer for the Santa Fe Music Collective, More locally, he has appeared at the St George Theater on Staten Island and he has a new CD Michael Morreale Vol VI on the PepJack Record Label.

Bill Bauer earned the highest credential in the Dalcroze practice from Institut Jaques-Dalcroze, Switzerland.

Álvaro Baquero-Pecino: Presented a paper and his recent book *Sicarios en la pantalla* at the LASA 2023 International Congress in Vancouver (Canada).

Irina Sekerina was recently awarded funding from the NSF-BS, was part of the Fulbright Core Program, and was awarded support from the Carnegie Corporation. This was all in support of work on bilingualism. Sekerina also published 4 recent papers or chapters.

Sarah Berger was recently awarded funding from the NSF and published two articles, on infant sleep.

Dan McCloskey, Katie Cumiskey, and Patricia Brooks received a 3-Year, \$700,000 NSF grant titled: *"Using Peer-Enhanced Blockchain-Based Learning Environments to Promote Student Engagement and Retention"*.

Jason Bishop received an NSF grant to develop **The Individual Differences Corpus: A resource for testing and refining hypotheses about individual differences in speech production**

In the School of Education, Ting Yuan received the Biennial Grant Award from the National Council of Teachers of English Research Foundation and also published an article in *Journal of Research in Childhood Education*.

Greg Seals has two articles out or coming out in *Philosophy of Education* and *Educational Abundance*

Nelly Tournaki published 5 papers recently on topics ranging from disciplinary incidents to teacher self-efficacy.

David Kritt was elected to the Board of the Jean Piaget Society

Ken Gold continues to appear in venues to discuss his recent book *The Forgotten Borough: Staten Island and the Subway*.

In Science and Technology, Connie Li recently published an article in *Computerized Medical Imaging and Graphics*

You may have seen that Professor Xiaowen Zhang is one of seven within CUNY to receive funding from the Google Cyber NYC Institutional Research Program.

Distinguished Professor Sos Agaian was the keynote speaker over the past summer. He published 12 journal papers including 5 top IEEE journals.

Chang Hui Shen recently received an NSF I Corps grant to develop a Biosensor for landmine detection

Abhijit Champanerkar Co-organized NSF sponsored conference: GTiNY - Geometric Topology in New York, Columbia University, where he is also was recently a visiting scholar

Antonia Foldes contributed a piece to the *Periodica Mathematica Hungarica*

Zheng (Zeno) Huang and Marcello Lucia both contributed to a paper on Donaldson Functional in Teichmueller Theory. Zeno also published a paper on Hyperbolic Space. Zeno was also invited to lecture in Spain and France.

Marcello Lucia was also awarded a Simons Foundation research grant effective.

Jesenko Vukadinovic published paper in *Discrete and Continuous Dynamical Systems on Oscillators*.

In the School of Health Sciences, Zaghloul Ahmed and Raja Krishnaswami were awarded an NSF 21-552 Innovation Corps grant.

Jean Berteau received grant from the Lounsbery Foundation to launch the French PhD diaspora initiative. Jean also organized the 3rd edition of the Bonitos Symposium in collaboration with the University of Lyon.

There are also a number of upcoming events, including today Gallery Opening featuring works from Kate Horsfield. This show is co-curated by Cynthia Chris and Siona Wilson. CSI is proud to present these works publicly for the first time and I encourage you to come to the reception immediately following Senate.

In addition, later on this evening at the Cargo Cafe Sarah Pollack will be reading from her recently published book of translations of poetry by Uruguayan poet Ida Vitale as part of a night of music and bilingual poetry in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month

Next week is also Advising Week – please be sure to participate!