

Minutes of the 175th Meeting of the Faculty Senate

Thursday, October 17th, 2024 from 3:30 to 4:25 pm in 1P-119

Faculty Senate (FS) Members in Attendance:

Zaghloul Ahmed, Jane Alexander, Neo Antoniades, Karen Arca-Contreras, John Arena, Comfort Asanbe, Banu Aslanertik, Michael Batson, Alan Benimoff, Vandana Chaudhry, David Curcio, Deborah DeSimone, Valkiria Duran-Narucki, Valerie Forrestal, Rosane Gertner, Kenneth Gold, Susan Holak, Emma Johnson, Burnett Joiner, Wilma Jones, Catherine Lavender, Alfred Levine, Timothy Lynch, Lisa Manne, Jonathan Peters, Greg Philips, Mark Aaron Polger, Sarah Pollack, Randelle Sasa, Susan Smith-Peter, Carles Solà Belda, Michael Steiper, Sarolta Takács, Barbra Teater, Thomas Tellefsen, John Verzani, Simone Wegge, Siona Wilson, Mark Zdziarski.

Guests in Attendance:

Vincenza Albarano, Cheryl Adolph, Warrick Bell, Maria Bellamy, Jason Bishop, Holly Block, Thomas Chen, Sharon Christian, Jessica Collura, Nina Del Gatto, Kevin Do, Aleks Dudek, Emmanuel Esperance, Catherine Ferrara, Stephen Ferst, Hernan Green, Michel Hodge, Nicole LaMassa, Jacqueline Lamberti, Michael Lederhandler, Mark Lewental, Carey Manifold, Susan Massara, Tara Mastrangelo, Tara Mastrorilli, Dan McCloskey, Christine McEvelly, Ralf Peetz, Angelina Raio, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Lisa Roe, Frank Salzillo, Terri Sangiorgio, Alex Scott, Carlos Serrano, Suzy Shepardson, Jessica Stein, Amy Stempler, Dana Trimbolo, Brenda Valentin, Rosemary Vitale, Robert Wallace, George Wang.

Meeting called to order at 3:30pm by Chair Susan Smith-Peter.

- I. Approval of the agenda.
Motion seconded, and passed with 2 amendments.
- II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate of September 19th, 2024.
Moved, seconded, and passed.
- III. Executive Committee Report (Appendix A)

IV. Provost's Report:

- Enrollment update
- Advising/Early Reporting – make sure to keep students updated with their progress reports (this helps students get the support they need before it's too late to turn things around)
- New withdrawal deadline (Nov. 6) – email went out from Registrar's Office on Oct. 16 with details
- Brightspace: LIVE IN '25! (Please continue to look out for and attend trainings, log into D2L and experiment, and reach out to Michael Castelli with questions.)
- PSC CUNY grant deadline is coming up in December
 - Please note that you cannot apply for release time for Traditional A grants (up to \$3500); however you can still apply for release time for Trad B grants (up to \$6500) and Trad C grants (up to \$12k)
 - See Provost Steiper or Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs Laxmi Ramasubramanian with any questions
 - AP Ramasubramanian is piloting a program to incentivize applying for the enhanced grant by offering support for those who apply but do not receive the competitive grant
 - Faculty accolades (PowerPoint included in packet)
 - 5 CSI faculty members were ranked in Stanford's top scientists

V. University Faculty Senate Report from Prof. John Verzani (Appendix C)

- Discussion on free speech on campus
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- Point of order from Prof. Lavender on whether degree changes should be pulled from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately. Senate member Jonathan Peters makes motion to approve these changes before voting on the rest of the Consent Agenda.

DEGREE CHANGES

GRADUATE

1. Department of Accounting & Finance
 - a. Change in existing degree: Accounting MS
2. Department of Physical Therapy
 - a. Change in degree requirements: Physical Therapy DPT
3. Department of Social Work
 - a. Change in existing degree: Social Work MSW

Motion seconded, and passed.

VI. (Updated) Consent Agenda:

NEW COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE – N/A

GRADUATE

1. Department of Physical Therapy
 - a. New course: PHT 902 Rehabilitation for Athletes and High-Functioning Patients
2. Department of Social Work
 - a. New course: SWK 769 Integrative Seminar OYR

CHANGES IN EXISTING COURSES

UNDERGRADUATE

1. Department of Sociology/Anthropology
 - a. Change in existing course: SOC 350 Psychosocial Aspects of Disability
2. Department of Engineering and Environmental Science
 - a. Change in existing course: ELE 441 Electrical Power Transmission and Distribution
 - b. Change in existing course: ELEC 465 Design and Analysis of Electrical Power Transmission
 - c. Change in existing course: ELE 475 Power Electronic and Instrumentation

GRADUATE

1. Department of Social Work
 - a. Change in existing course: SWK 764 OYR Integrative Seminar III
 - b. Change in existing course: SWK 771 MSW OYR Practicum I
 - c. Change in existing course: SWK 772 MSW OYR Practicum II

Updated Consent Agenda seconded, and passed.

VII. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate

1. Report from the Curriculum Chairs and request for volunteers to form an ad hoc committee to establish guidelines for asynchronous teaching (Appendix C)
 - Discussion on online teaching and related issues and concerns to be considered by ad hoc committee, who will work on best practices for asynchronous courses

Motion to adopt recommendations presented in the Proposed Asynchronous Course / Program Proposal Management Report, seconded, and passed

 - Ad hoc committee volunteers:
 - Prof. Maria Rice Bellamy (HSS)
 - Prof. Valerie Forrestal (Library)
 - Prof. Wilma Jones (Library)

- Prof. Catherine Lavender (HSS)
- Prof. Jonathan Peters (CSB)

Motion to accept above slate, seconded, and passed.

2. Report from Course and Standing Committee:

- Prof. Anat Niv-Solomon re-elected as chair
- Reviewed committee's charge, schedule, and procedures
- Reviewed open/pending student petitions
- Identified 3 key priorities:
 1. Continue review of CSI's academic misconduct policies and procedures
 2. Review and make recommendations on Dean's List criteria and procedures
 3. Develop a rubric for student petitions

3. Report from Research Committee outgoing chair Jonathan Peters:

As outgoing Chair of the Research Committee and on behalf of the Office of Sponsored Research, I'd like to encourage faculty members to consider submitting a two-page synopsis if they have an idea that is potentially grant funded, but haven't thought about moving it forward, please submit them as a way to start to building a portfolio of potentially fundable research opportunities on the campus. The research committee has discussed this and we think this is a way to help encourage more research activity. Don't be afraid to just get all the ideas on the table. We want to just encourage faculty to give us a short synopsis of how they would potentially think about their research moving forward. It could be anything. It could be in the scientific fields, the humanities, social sciences. Please send these to Dan or Laxmi's office, in order to start to accumulate a portfolio of potentially fundable ideas, because looking through the research grants, there's a lot out there that we're not participating in, including some available federal and state grants. We'll make up a list of suggested submissions to send to the Deans and whoever is interested.

VIII. Old Business

a. Faculty Senate videoconferencing rules (Appendix D)

Motion to approve, seconded, and passed.

IX. New Business - none

X. Announcements - none

VI. Adjournment. Motion made, seconded, and passed at 4:17pm

Appendix A: Faculty Senate Executive Committee report for October 10, 2024

On September 10, 2024, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with the provost and deans, as well as Chief Librarian Amy Stempler and Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Associate Provost for Faculty Success. We proposed that Valerie Forrestal, Faculty Senate Secretary, be empowered to create a form for faculty, the end goal of which is to generate a list of faculty experts for the website. This will help faculty be able to share their expertise as widely as possible and will be a resource for journalists and others to search. I ask faculty to respond to the form when it is shared out. The provost approved of the plan. Valerie also noted that the library will try a pilot of sharing data on faculty publications gathered through Lens.org on one of the TVs in the library.

We discussed the provost's plans to increase retention of students. He emphasized having some kind of assignment early on in the semester so that there can be an intervention before the midterm if needed. We discussed spirit building exercises, such as pumpkin carving and other competitions. The provost expressed a willingness to be dunked in a way reminiscent of the end of Grease. Several people brought up that some students feel lost. The provost raised the issue of courses with high rates of Ds, Fs and Ws and said it would need to be dealt with.

Members of the FSXC said that the measures taken with the consultant to IACUC, the body that oversees animal research on campus, as well as using Hunter's IRB personnel have been working well. Associate Provost Ramasubramanian asked for our assistance in finding someone on Staten Island who would be willing to be on the committee who is not too closely associated with science but who cares about animals. As of yet, such a person has not been found and they are still looking.

We asked about how students are being prepared for the rollout of Brightspace. Doriann Hyland has a team of student ambassadors who are reaching out to student government, labs, and student organizations. CUNY's Brightspace page has a student section. We suggested that they have a webpage so that students can find their help with a search.

We raised the issue of the lack of a locksmith and the provost said that they are now taking bids for a locksmith service. We also mentioned that the inability of the college to create new signs has an ADA aspect, given that the old signs have braille on them, while the new ones have to be created by each department or program and are just on paper. The provost said that he would find out about the signs.

-Submitted by Faculty Senate Chair Prof. Susan Smith-Peter

Appendix B: CUNY UFS Chair Report

Plenary guest

At the plenary, the Chancellor updated the body on the ongoing collective bargaining negotiations and is hopeful a settlement is arrived at some time in the fall. He then addressed the current enrollment landscape and some of the challenges the University continues to experience.

He took some questions on the state of CUNY libraries, the status of the recently passed UFS resolution related to MetroCards for students, and the governance plan for the CUNY School of Medicine.

At the meeting next Tuesday the University Provost will attend. At the December meeting the Board Chair is scheduled to attend.

Governance

After many months, the Board's Governance committee voted to forward proposed changes to the Bylaws and Manual of General Policy as relates to the Duties of the Chairperson and role of the President, Provost, and Deans to the full Board for consideration. After much back and forth with the UFS, which gathered significant feedback from the faculty of the University, the changes made by the University Provost to the initial proposal were substantial enough that the faculty representative voted in approval.

Judge Lippman report

- On October 21, 2023, Governor Hochul asked for "an independent third-party review of the City University of New York's policies and procedures related to antisemitism and discrimination."
- On September 24, 2024, the Honorable Jonathan Lippman released a long-anticipated report in response
- The 146-page report consists of an overview of CUNY including a nuanced appreciation for the difference across the 25 campuses, a review of relevant laws (First Amendment; Title VI, the Civil Rights Act; and a Trump-era Executive Order 13889 on Combatting Antisemitism).

Recommendations

The report has thirteen recommendations for CUNY to follow up on; many of which have already begun. Of importance to faculty are

- **CUNY's Policy on Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination:** This policy establishes the need for each campus to have a chief diversity officer.

The judge recommends “CUNY should also consider updating the definition of harassment in the EOND Policy.”

The CUNY policy is viewed as too narrow:

interpretations of federal law do not limit harassment to “unreasonable” interference with an individual’s ability to participate in an academic environment, but rather note that harassment “creates a hostile environment when the conduct is sufficiently severe, pervasive, or persistent so as to interfere with or limit a student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school.”

The sex-based misconduct policy was recently updated in response to a settlement agreement CUNY made with the Office of Civil Rights.

Policies, cont.

- **Digital assets policy** (Last modified this year)
“Additionally, CUNY’s Digital Assets Policy must also address conduct like doxxing, which can have a serious impact on the safety of affected individuals.”

This is an issue that effected some Hunter College Faculty who were doxxed in a manner that included CUNY logos in modified form. At the time, the faculty reported that the University could not pursue legal actions to compel the non-use.

- **Freedom of expression**

CUNY has [rules and regulations](#) for the Maintenance of Public Order, termed the “Henderson rules”. These date to 1969, with a few amendments, the latest of which was in 1990.

The UFS has been attempting to have this policy updated since before 2016. We passed a [resolution](#) at our May 2024 Plenary

CUNY would be well-served to consider whether it should adopt a policy that makes clear that CUNY is committed to academic freedom and the free exchange of ideas and expression of all points of view for members of the CUNY

community, while at the same time reinforcing and amplifying on the Henderson Rules and providing specifics on time, place, and manner restrictions that can be instituted to prevent interference with education processes.

The UFS should play a role here, but it remains to be seen how much influence we can have. These restrictions have seemingly grown nationally.

The Judge is careful to remind the University of the importance

It is incumbent on CUNY to undertake the difficult task of providing guidance that will help ensure that members of the CUNY community foster a climate of mutual respect, even when they exchange ideas that some may view as disagreeable or offensive.

A [Blog post](#) reviewing more of the report.

-Submitted by UFS Representative Prof. John Verzani

Appendix C: Proposed Asynchronous Course / Program Proposal Management

Maria Rice Bellamy – Chair of Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
Catherine Lavender – Chair of General Education Committee
Jonathan Peters – Chair of Graduate Studies Committee

Date: 16 September 2024

Given that New York State issues a particular HEGIS code to a particular program, college, and campus, we expect that CSI designated HEGIS codes will be retained by the program issued the code and finally by the faculty of CSI.

Asynchronous course offering and programs would require the following:

For IPC:

A proposal designed to identify and outline the changes required to transition an existing course or program from an in person modality to a hybrid or asynchronous modality.

IPC Approval of changes in existing programs that requires additional resources or establishment of new programs.

For the Appropriate Curriculum Committee:

All curricular proposals shall originate in the appropriate department and/or program, with approval from its faculty. Faculty shall retain control of the curriculum, staffing, scheduling, content, and delivery.

Program goals and student learning outcomes will be created and assessed by originating department and/or program faculty.

Control of program, including staffing, scheduling and content, will be retained by originating department and/or program faculty.

All program content will be reviewed and re-approved for continued use every five years. This will require reauthorization by the relevant curriculum committee, based on a request from the supervising faculty.

-Submitted by Prof. Jonathan Peters

Appendix D: Procedures for Member Videoconferencing (Pursuant to Public Officers Law § 103-a)

In compliance with Public Officers Law § 103-a(2)(a), the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York (“the Board”) following a public hearing, authorized by resolution on October 24, 2022, the use of videoconferencing as described in Public Officers Law § 103-a.

The following procedures are hereby established to satisfy the requirement of Public Officers Law § 103-a(2)(b) that any public body which in its discretion wishes to permit its members to participate in meetings by videoconferencing from private locations – under *extraordinary circumstances* – must establish written procedures governing member and public attendance.

1. Faculty Senate members shall be physically present at any meeting of the Faculty Senate unless such member is unable to be physically present at one of the designated public meeting locations due to *extraordinary circumstances*.
2. For purposes of these procedures, the term “*extraordinary circumstances*” includes disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the member’s physical attendance at such meeting.
3. If a member is unable to be physically present at the designated meeting location and wishes to participate by videoconferencing from a private location due to *extraordinary circumstances*, the member must notify the Secretary of the Faculty Senate and/or the Chair of the Senate no later than four business days prior to the scheduled meeting in order for proper notice to the public to be given. If a determination has been made by the Chair that such *extraordinary circumstances* exist, then the Secretary shall take the necessary steps to convene an extraordinary-circumstances videoconferencing meeting. If *extraordinary circumstances* present themselves on an emergent basis within four days of a meeting, the Senate shall update its notice as soon as practicable to include that information. If it is not practicable, as determined by the Chair and the Secretary of the Senate, for the Senate to update its notice, the Senate may reschedule its meeting.
4. If there is a quorum of members participating at a physical location, the Faculty Senate may properly convene a meeting. A member who is participating from a remote location that is not open to in-person physical attendance *shall not* count toward a quorum of the Senate but may participate and vote if there is a quorum of members at a physical location(s) open to the public.
5. Except in the case of Executive Sessions conducted pursuant to Public Officers Law § 105, the Senate shall ensure that its members can be heard, seen, and identified while the meeting is being conducted, including but not limited to any motions, proposals, resolutions, and any other matter formally discussed or voted upon. This shall include the use of first and last name placards physically placed in front of the members or, for members participating by videoconferencing from private locations due to *extraordinary*

circumstances, such members must ensure that their full first and last name appears on their videoconferencing screen.

6. The minutes of the meetings involving videoconferencing based on extraordinary circumstances pursuant to Public Officers Law § 103-a shall include which, if any, members participated by videoconferencing from a private location due to such *extraordinary circumstances*.
7. The public notice for the meeting shall inform the public: (i) that extraordinary-circumstances videoconferencing will (or may) be used, (ii) where the public can view and/or participate in such meeting, (iii) where required documents and records will be posted or available, and (iv) the physical location(s) for the meeting where the public can attend.
8. The Senate shall provide that each open portion of any meeting conducted using extraordinary-circumstances videoconferencing shall be recorded and such recordings posted or linked on the College Governance website within five business days following the meeting, and shall remain so available for a minimum of five years thereafter. Such recordings shall be transcribed upon request.
9. If members of the Faculty Senate are authorized to participate by videoconferencing from a private location due to extraordinary circumstances, the Senate shall provide the opportunity for members of the public to view such meeting by video, and to participate in proceedings by videoconference in real time where public comment or participation is authorized. The Senate shall ensure that where extraordinary-circumstances videoconferencing is used, it authorizes the same public participation or testimony as in person participation or testimony.
10. Open meetings of the College of Staten Island Faculty Senate and all of its constituent entities conducted using extraordinary-circumstances videoconferencing pursuant to the provisions of POL § 103-a shall be broadcast pursuant to the requirements of POL § 103(f) and shall utilize technology to permit access by members of the public with disabilities consistent with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as amended, and corresponding guidelines. For the purposes of this guideline, “disability” shall have the meaning defined in Executive Law § 292.
11. The in-person participation requirements of POL § 103-a(2)(c) shall not apply during a state disaster emergency declared by the governor pursuant to Executive Law § 28 or a local state of emergency proclaimed by the chief executive of a county, city, village or town pursuant to § 24 of the Executive Law if the Senate determines that the circumstances necessitating the emergency declaration would affect or impair the ability of the Senate to hold an in-person meeting.

These procedures shall be conspicuously posted on the Faculty Senate’s website.