Minutes for the 149th Meeting of the Faculty Senate

for Thursday, May 20, 2021 from 3:30 to 4:20 pm held virtually.


I. Approval the agenda.

*Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.*

II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate of April 22, 2021.

*Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.*

III. Executive Committee Report: Appendix A & remembrance of James Sanders

Comment: Thanks was extended to the Chair and the members of the FSXC for their leadership during an
extremely difficult year.

IV. Provost’s Report : Appendix B

Note: The students nominated for graduation were enthusiastically and unanimously approved by the Senate.

Question: What does it mean to be hybrid? We are hearing that we can just give the final exam and that will meet the minimum guidelines. However, that seem ingenuous, deceptive, and certainly not what our students who are coming to live in our dorms will expect. Do you have any more guidance on what type of educational experience our students should be getting in this mode of instruction?

Provost: I agree – just coming in for a final doesn’t cut it – that’s not really the goal.

Question: Would you be willing to produce a document for this body that makes the case that the current arrangement we have with the Research Foundation regarding overhead rates is, in fact, in CSI’s best interests and in particular, the distinction that we make in rates for equipment versus personnel?

Provost: That’s a very good point. While we do need to have more of our research infrastructure funded by indirect costs, we do need to about what is best overall for the college. We should share that information, probably with the research committee but ultimately with the body.

President: I would love for us to be in a position where we can increase the overhead that we get on grants and contracts but it is based on a Federal Limit and we do not meet the criteria that is used by the Research Foundation.

Comment: The reality is that the allocation of overhead should be related to some degree to the services provided, and so we need to look at the costing mechanism, because in some fields relatively little is provided in terms of campus services and supportive research and in other areas, quite a bit. President disagree. The amount of staffing we would have to have to ensure Federal compliance would far exceed the tax we are paying to the RF. I think we are getting a pretty good deal.

Question: We hear in your report that initially CSI hired too many faculty, then that we lost 35 faculty. Now we are talking about grants that bring in money, for which you need full time faculty, What do you think is the ideal number for full-time faculty at CSI?

Provost: That number is in flux and it’s a complicated questions because our personnel costs are exceeding our tax levy resources from the state by a million dollars or so. We do need to hire more faculty, but the best way to handle this is to invest in the programs where we know there’s unmet capacity. In the short term, we need to look at the places that are in dire need, like nursing.

Comment: The College is only as good intellectually and academically as the full time faculty who are rigorously involved in the curriculum and the publishing and transferring of knowledge – so I urge the administration to really focus on how to increase full time faculty and make that really a priority of the institution, as it was in the past.

V. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate

   a. Admissions Committee –
   b. Curricular Committees –
      i. General Education Committee –
      ii. Graduate Studies Committee –
      iii. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee –

Consent Agenda for May 20, 2021

AIII Change in degree requirements
AIII.1 Department of English: English MA
AIII.3 Department of Accounting and Finance: Accounting BS and MHC Accounting BS
AIII.4 School of Education: Early Childhood (Birth-2) Education Sequence

AIV New Courses
AIV.1 Department of Accounting and Finance: FNC 351 Commercial Lending
AIV.2 Department of Engineering and Environmental Science: ENS 465 Design and Analysis of Electrical Power Transmission System
AIV.3 Department of Engineering and Environmental Science: ENS 475 Power Electronics and Instrumentation

AV Change in existing courses
AV.1 Department of Economics: ECO 257 The Japanese Economy
AV.2 School of Education: EDE 200 Social Foundations of Education
AV.3 School of Education: EDE 260 Psychological Foundations of Education
AV.4 School of Education: EDE 301 Literacy Development and Language Acquisition in Elementary Education
AV.5 School of Education: EDE 302 Social Studies, Art, Reading and Language Arts in Elementary Education
AV.6 School of Education: EDE 303 Mathematics, Science, and Music in Elementary Education
AV.7 School of Education: EDE 400 Student Teaching in Elementary Education
AV.8 School of Education: EDP 220 Special Educational Needs of People with Disabilities
AV.9 School of Education: EDC 440 Student Teaching and Seminar in Early Childhood I
AV.10 School of Education: EDC 402 Reflective Analysis in Student Teaching (Early Childhood)
AV.11 School of Education: EDC 360 Social Studies Early Childhood Education
AV.12 School of Education: EDC 316 Social Contexts of Early Childhood Education
AV.13 School of Education: EDC 332 Creative Arts in an Integrated Early Childhood Curriculum
AV.14 School of Education: EDC 310 Reading and Writing in the Primary Grades
AV.15 School of Education: EDC 218 Language and Literacy in the Early Childhood Curriculum
AV.16 School of Education: EDC 105 Introduction to Early Childhood Education
AV.17 School of Education: EDC 100 Introductory Seminar on Infants and Toddlers in Early Childhood Education
AV.18 Department of Performing and Creative Arts: ART 245 Printmaking
AV.19 Department of Performing and Creative Arts: Change in existing course: ART 345 Intermediate Printmaking
AV.20 Department of Performing and Creative Arts: ART 445 Advanced Printmaking
AV.21 Department of Performing and Creative Arts: ART 42 Graphic Art
AV.22 Department of Performing and Creative Arts: ART 275 Studio Art Theory and Practice

Consent agenda was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Items not on the Consent Agenda

AVI OTHER ITEMS
AVI.1 INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES PROGRAMS: Changes to the Charge for the COR 100 Committee

Motion was moved, seconded, and passed (33 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain)

b. Course & Standing – none
c. Library Committee – none
d. Academic Research Committee – none

e. Academic Facilities Committee– none

f. Academic Freedom Committee– none

g. Academic Technology committee– none

h. Faculty Personnel Policy Committee – none due to time

VI. University Faculty Senate Report – none

VII. Old Business- none

VIII. New Business- none

IX. Adjournment. Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously at 4:48 pm.

APPENDIX A

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report and remembrance of James Sanders May 20, 2021

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report

I am pleased to submit this report on behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. As this semester draws to an end, we would like to acknowledge the work of CSI’s faculty, staff, students and administration in facing this unprecedented situation. Although it has been, for many of us, the most difficult year of our professional lives, we have all learned crucial lessons about the importance of solidarity, community, compassion and our unwavering commitment to the life of the mind.

Before we begin, I would like to ask Deb DeSimone to say a few words about a dear colleague, Dr. James Sanders of the Department of Education, who passed away during this academic year. (Deb).

The Executive Committee met with Provost Parrish, the Associate Provost and the Deans on May 11. We took the opportunity to reflect on the past year, to talk about the current plans for re-entry and plans for the fall, and to discuss the College’s vision for the future. Another area of discussion was the ongoing revision of the Faculty Handbook, which has been undertaken in the Provost’s office. We urged the Provost to engage in this process in collaboration with the Faculty Senate’s Personnel Policy Committee, which is the body established to carry out such procedures affecting faculty members’ professional well-being.

While we acknowledged that the full effect of the pandemic on the CSI community is still unknown, the Provost noted that the movement of classes to be fully online was carried out remarkably well. He
credited the extensive training by the staff of the Faculty Center and the Office of Information Technology, as well as the EduCares team, in supporting this effort.

The extent of the pandemic’s damage to CSI’s academic life remains to be assessed. Its impact on students’ progress needs to be measured; as does the effect of the Credit/No Credit policies. We must address the needs of specific sectors of our student population to ensure that all are receiving the services and support they need. We also reiterated that CSI has lost 35 fulltime faculty members in recent years, and emphasized the urgent need for the College to redouble its efforts to maintain an adequate number of full-timers to serve our students and participate in shared governance. Especially dire is the College’s inability to recruit and retain faculty of color and other underrepresented groups.

In articulating a vision for the future, the Provost observed that almost every aspect of campus life is changing, and that many opportunities are emerging. He agreed that there is a need to rebuild the professorate and to provide training and support for blended educational modalities. The Executive Committee conveyed our support for shared governance to the Provost, and expressed gratitude for his productive efforts to work with us this semester.

The Executive Committee continues to be concerned about the President’s proposed governance plan and urges Dr. Fritz to withdraw it. As some of us end our terms in faculty governance, we reaffirm our commitment to the College, to our colleagues and our students. We wish you all a wonderful, productive summer and thank you for your solidarity and collegiality.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Marcus-Delgado
Chair

Remembrance of James Sanders by Deborah De Simone

The words I present to you today are a compilation of thoughts and sentiments expressed by the Faculty of the School of Education in Remembrance of Jim Sanders: Professor, scholar, sailor, who passed away in December, though we just learned of his death on Monday. I like to welcome and acknowledge Jim’s daughters, Rachel and Sarah, who have joined us today via Zoom.

Jim truly was a kind, wonderful, authentic gentleman, with an animating presence and real twinkle in his eye.

Jim started off as a Jesuit priest and left that calling for the love of his life, Joan Sanders, and continued his service to others as a Professor of Educational History at the CSI. Jim was a
scholar of Irish Catholic education, writing books and articles about the Irish in Chicago and in Boston. He was dedicated to improving the educational experience of public school children. "Sanders' Law" rests on the observation that "The farther from the classroom a NYCDoe employee, the less concern on that employee's part for the well-being of students." This "law" inspired Jim to work to make the system more humane, root and branch. A more humane system needed stronger human connections -- connections between the teachers in a particular grade -- and between the students and their classroom teachers. Through these connections, instruction could improve as faculty shared links between their content as well as concerns for individual students. Jim and his great friend, Len Ciaccio, started the Discovery Center, based on this idea that the best instruction is instruction given by teachers who know each other and know their students. Together, Jim with Len (and later with Irina Lyublinskaya) won multiple federal, state, public and private grants to fund their vision of educational change. They expanded that vision into the Discovery Institute of the City University of New York, which brought CSI millions of dollars and made teacher education a flagship in CUNY.

Jim was the soul and moral compass of the Department of Education. No wrong doing was left unnoticed or unspoken – be it the exploitation of adjuncts or issues of parking (OMG he detested those grass medians in Parking Lot 2A). Jim was always willing to speak out against obvious and not-so-obvious wrongs in the Department and at the College.

He was an incredibly humble, patient, thoughtful and generous mentor to all who joined the Education Department. His contribution to our professional careers and achievements is invaluable. He taught us how to be professors…how to write simply, cleanly and logically. Jim opened his mind and his heart to people around him. He loved people! Jim was so adept at distilling the essence of ideas so all could understand. He communicated in a way that inspired all to join in the conversations…be they brainstorming ideas for grants to improve education, to learning how to support collaborative and productive environments, from getting feedback on writing proposals, to co-presenting at meetings in Washington DC. Every minute spent with Jim was a learning experience that opened our minds to new visions and ideas and helped us become better educators. Jim modeled the importance of collegiality and civility.

Born in Illinois, about 2 hours SW of Chicago, Jim fell in love with the sea when he came east. Jim and I shared a love of the ocean, sailing, and a penchant for nautical metaphors. To this day I use his retort whenever asked how I am, “Never better.”

Simply put, James Sanders was our gold standard. He remains a present force that still moves, motivates, and stimulates his colleagues. Rachel and Sarah, trust me when I say, he is and will continue to be sorely missed.

There will be a memorial luncheon on August 28th here on Staten Island. Everyone is invited to attend, if you can. I will put the link in the chat.

https://www.mykeeper.com/event/memorial-luncheon/
There is a very pleasant duty that I have as commencement is almost here! I now wish to present the candidates for recipients of all degrees to be awarded at the May 27, 2021 Commencement (including fall 2020, spring 2021, and summer 2021 terms). The names are those recorded on the official rolls maintained by the college Registrar and who have completed all degree requirements – a copy of which I have here. The numbers are still in flux as students are now being evaluated for completion of requirements based on this term’s grades:

- To date there are **2786** degree candidates for all degrees for the May 27 commencement.

- June graduates decreased from 1748 for 2019 to 1574 for 2020. There are currently **1,709** candidates for all degrees for June 2021.

- August degrees awarded decreased from 560 for 2019 to 456 for 2020. There are currently **291** applicants for August 2021, and we anticipate an increase as June candidates defer to August and other students continue to apply.

- January degrees awarded decreased from 800 in 2019 to 765 for 2020, then increased to **805** for 2021.

What is your pleasure regarding these candidates?

Our plans for fall re-entry were altered last week by two announcements from CUNY. The first indicated that vaccinations would be mandatory for students taking in person classes in the fall and the second indicated that all CUNY offices should be prepared to re-open in person by August 2. Directors, chairs, and office managers are being briefed by Hope Berte and Jessica Collura on policies and readiness for return to campus.

For the fall schedule, we are now working to increase the number of in-person experiences for our students. Hope’s team is working to open as many spaces in as many buildings as possible, and it is likely that guidance on social distancing and other factors related to pandemic protocols will change between now and the start of the fall semester. Right now, the focus will be on classes that involve first year and grad students, as those students register later and it will be most important for those students, particularly frosh, to connect to the CSI campus through in-person experiences. Under the leadership of Bill Bernhardt in the Faculty Center and CIO Patty Kahn, we will also be soliciting faculty volunteers to participate in a pilot testing hyflex instrumentation for the fall semester. Expect an announcement on this shortly.

Diversity Council. The Diversity Council subcommittees either have met or will meet before the end of the semester to plan our activities for the fall. The immediate goals are to recommend short, medium, and long term initiatives in each group.
Departures. As the academic year ends, we will be bidding farewell to a number of our colleagues. Marcus Tye, who has served as Dean of the School of Health Sciences since 2017 and as interim Dean of the School of Education since last October, is leaving CUNY to become Dean of Health Sciences at Pace University. Angela Cartmell-McGlyn, who has overseen the office for the Protection of Research Subjects since 2019 is relocating to New Jersey for a new position. Racquel Gates, Associate Professor of Cinema and Media Studies in the Department of Media Culture, has accepted a position at Columbia University. Although these are all significant losses for CSI, I wish all of them good fortune in their new positions.