

## Minutes for the 151<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Faculty Senate

for Thursday, October 21, 2021 from 2:30 to 3:20 pm held virtually.

**Attendance:** Jonathan Peters, Chang-Hui Shen, Angelo Bongiorno, Yumei Huo, Simone Wegge, Gene Fellner, Neo Antoniadis, Lee Papa, Valerie Forrestal, Thomas Tellefsen, Soon Chun, Carlo Lancelloti, Cynthia Chris, Natalie Fischetti, Maurya Wickstrom, Mark White., Zaghoul Ahmed, Comfrt Asanbe, Christine Flynn Saulnier, Jay Arena, Alyson Bardsely, Alan Benimoff., Jason Bishop, Katie Cumiskey, Maryann Feola, Susan Imberman, Wilma Jones, Sylvia Kahan, Catherine Lavender, John Lawrence, Alfred Levine, George SanchezMichael Paris, George Vachadze, John Verzani, George Wang., John Wing, Cindy Wong, Vandana Chaudhry, Roseane Gertner, Roshen Hendrickson, Andrew Colbeck, Brian Farr, Orit Gruber, Peter Galati, Michael Parrish, Michael Cavagnero, Sarolta Takács, Susan Holak.

**Guests:** Alana Gaymon, Suzy Shepardson , Hope Berte, Patricia Kahn, Jennifer Borrero, Kerri Gerson, Veronica Dimeglio, Maxwell Velikodny, Hernan Green, Darryl Hill, Juline Robinson, Robert Wallace, Michael Ivany , Michael Volpe, Warrick Bell, Tony Allego, Emmanuel Esperance, Prentiss, Stephen Ferst, Michael Baybusky, Marianne Jeffreys, Florinda Mattia, Joyce Taylor.

I. Approval the agenda.

*Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.*

II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate of September 30, 2021.

*Moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.*

III. Executive Committee Report: Appendix A

IV. Provost's Report : Appendix B

**Question:** Can you please explain how the Administration saw fit to bypass our current governance plan and not include faculty or HEOs on the two Dean searches presently being conducted?

**Answer:** if we're making interim appointments, we do not need to do a search, we do not need to follow those patterns and we haven't in the past. In this case I did use a small group of people to help me look at the applications to come up with a list of finalists. Rather than just making an appointment of an interim Dean, I thought it was important to have the input of the department's faculty and staff and students to see if there's a fit or not. You know, we won't make any decisions without that feedback but it's not a search in the same way that that your constituting. When we do have a full and regular search for these positions, we will follow the process in the Governance plan.

**Comment:** It really wouldn't have taken much to bring in a faculty member from each of the schools onto those search committees you saw fit to form. The President says he is focused on collegiality, it would have been the COLLEGIAL thing to do.

**Response:** I honestly don't believe we would have gotten the searches to the point where they are now.

**Question:** Is there a limit to the interim position and is that person eligible to be a candidate for the permanent positions?

**Answer:** Past practice is that the interim appointment could be considered for the permanent position. There does not seem to be a specific duration for the interim positions.

**Clarification:** We wanted to do a national search but were not approved to do so. Usually a interim is six months to a year with possibility of extension. We hope to have a full search as soon as we are allowed.

**Question :**Is there any update on Buildings 1N & 2N?

**Answer:** Presently there is a delay in the work as there is a possible change in contractors. Furniture has begun being removed from the building and put into storage. I will have more complete information next week.

**Question:** Why are we not allowed to use the buildings, since there is no demolition going on and the faculty want to return to their offices?

Answer: Faculty are allowed into the buildings to get materials or do a little bit of work.

**Clarification:** request can be submitted to Hope Berte's office for dates and timeframes that faculty would like to be in the building, People cannot stay in the building for extended periods of time because it is a risk management issue. The elevators are not working and there are conditions in the basement. The buildings remain closed.

**Comment:** The FSXC will follow up with the Administration on this issue and will make all information regarding 1N & 2N available to the community.

**Question:** Are there examples of national searches, where the interim was not hired and what proportion of interims we're not appointed permanently here?

**Answer:** There is one example of a search in the Health Sciences, but I do not have that data.

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

- a. Admissions Committee – none
- b. Curricular Committees – Chairs:
  - i. General Education Committee –
  - ii. Graduate Studies Committee –
  - iii. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee –

#### **Consent Agenda for October 21, 2021**

##### **NEW COURSES:**

AV.1 DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNT & FINANCE, ECONOMICS, MANAGEMENT, AND MARKETING  
BUS/ECO 105 SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AND SOCIETY

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

- c. Course & Standing – none
- d. Library Committee – none
- 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 – At the last meeting there was a resolution in support of the present governance plan at CSI thsta passed without dissent. That was then seconded by the Faculty Governance leaders within CUNY. This led to the writing of a letter by the AAUP State Chapter of New York to the Board of Trustees ad the Administration of this college.

- VII. Old Business- none
- VIII. New Business- none
- IX. Adjournment. *Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously at 3:01 pm.*

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Faculty Senate Executive Committee Report October 21, 2021**

I am pleased to submit this report on behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. We are about halfway through the semester, and I'm happy to say that the future looks bright. The COVID-19 pandemic seems to be subsiding, albeit slowly, and we are gradually seeing a return to "normal" life. It's important to recognize the herculean efforts of CSI's faculty and staff throughout this crisis, and to honor the lives of those who have suffered or are no longer with us.

The Executive Committee was heartened by the results of the recent referendum on the president's proposed governance plan, in which 87% of the instructional staff voted no. We are urging the president to withdraw the plan and to work in a collegial manner within the established institutional structure for reform, if there are changes that the college determines are needed. We will most certainly join with the entire CSI community to continue to improve our college governance structures, and we appreciate the anticipated participation of our hundreds of colleagues who all want what's best for the College.

On October 12, the Executive Committee met with the Provost, the Deans and the Associate Provosts. The Provost reported that over 90% of students taking in-person classes are now vaccinated, and that the numbers in hybrid courses is also rapidly increasing. At the time of that meeting, no students had been given the WA grade, and there is optimism that the number of students affected by the vaccine mandate will be relatively small. We do not know exactly what that number will be. Given the Resolution on Instructional Modality that was introduced at the last Senate meeting, we asked if students had been surveyed as to their preferences about taking on-line or in-person classes. The provost responded that such a survey had not been administered. We urge the administration to poll students and faculty as to their preferences so that departments can rely on data rather than anecdotal evidence. These preferences will clearly vary from department to department, and we expect decisions regarding teaching modalities to take place in consultation among the faculty, department chairs and the deans. Last month's proposed resolution that was tabled will be sent to the Senate's Academic Freedom committee for review.

We were pleased to meet Interim Associate Provost Dante Tawfeeq at the meeting. We stressed to him the dire need of faculty across campus for support for their research. We asked that, at a minimum, funds for faculty travel be reinstated. We look forward to working with Dr. Tawfeeq in the coming months in resolving faculty needs in this area.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has learned that faculty who were promoted this year did not receive an anticipated salary step increase, and that the decision was made at CSI – it did not come from CUNY. We have also just learned that search committees were formed for the positions of Interim Deans of the Schools of Health Sciences and Education, and that no faculty were included in those committees. We continue to assert that these schools need fulltime faculty members, not interim deans. We are dismayed by the administration's continued practice of excluding faculty in decision-making and disregarding collegial practices of shared governance.

In closing, we wish the Senate members a productive, joyful and fruitful fall. We are, as always, proud of our faculty, staff and students. We encourage you to contact us with any concerns or issues you'd like to see addressed by this body. We are here for you, and we are grateful for your support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Marcus-Delgado  
Chair

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Provost's Report October 21, 2021**

Fall Semester vaccination rates. Currently 93% of the students enrolled in in-person classes at CSI have approved vaccinations, as do 76% of those taking at least one hybrid class. CAAS and Student Affairs are continuing their outreach to students to encourage vaccination, and continue to find students who are vaccinated but not yet registered in CUNYfirst. I urge any faculty who are teaching hybrid sections that will meet on campus later this semester to encourage the students in their classes to check in CUNYfirst to make sure their vaccination records are submitted, and to reach out to Educare or Student Affairs if they need assistance with their records.

For on-campus COVID testing, CSI has a positive test rate of 0.2% with 2865 tests done on our campus since the program started. Of the 223 tests done here last week, none were positive. By contrast, the positivity rates for Richmond County and the NYC Metro area are 2.7%. Thus CSI's safety rate compares very favorably to that of our greater region, although we continue to strongly encourage students, faculty, and staff to get vaccinated for the greater safety of the CSI community.

As you must have heard by now, CUNY is planning for a mostly in-person Spring Semester with a target of at least 70% of sections fully in-person. Faculty are also expected to teach at least one class on the CSI campus unless they have an accommodation. Currently our schedule shows 75% in-person sections, 20% Online, and 5% hybrid, so CSI is doing well in meeting this goal.

Currently buildings 1N, 2N, 2M and parts of 1P remain closed as damage from the Hurricane Ida floods continues to be remediated. Because of the degree of flooding and, in some cases, the antiquity of the infrastructure, this is taking longer than we all would hope, but it is important that the buildings are safe and sound before full occupation can resume. With the exception of basement rooms, faculty should be able to access their offices and labs for short visits as needed.

Pending CUNY approval of our 2021-2022 budget, CSI is prepared to move forward with the eight faculty searches that have been approved thus far, starting immediately with the Nursing Chair search. ] We are also bringing two finalists to campus in the next three weeks for each of the two interim Dean positions in the Schools of Health Sciences and Education. Please participate in this process by attending the open forums for these candidates and providing feedback.

