Minutes of the 176th Meeting of the Faculty Senate

Thursday, November 14th, 2024 from 3:30 to 4:25 pm in 1P-119

Faculty Senate (FS) Members in Attendance:

Zaghloul Ahmed, Jane Alexander, Neo Antoniades, John Arena, Comfort Asanbe, Banu Aslanertik, Michael Batson, Alan Benimoff, Andrew Colbeck, David Curcio, Valkiria Duran-Narucki, Valerie Forrestal, Kenneth Gold, Patti Gross, Susan Holak, Eric Ivison, Emma Johnson, Burnett Joiner, Wilma Jones, Sylvia Kahan, Catherine Lavender, Alfred Levine, Sharon Loverde, Lisa Manne, Greg Philips, Randelle Sasa, Susan Smith-Peter, Carles Solà Belda, Michael Steiper, Sarolta Takács, Barbra Teater, Thomas Tellefsen, John Verzani, Simone Wegge, Siona Wilson, Mark Zdziarski, Sarah Zelikovitz.

Guests in Attendance:

Michael Anderson, Warrick Bell, Maria Bellamy, Jason Bishop, Sharon Christian, Hernán Green, Aleks Dudek, Emmanuel Esperance, Stephanie Gonzalez Allen, Michel Hodge, Jeremiah Jerkiewicz, Nicole LaMassa, Michael Lederhandler, Carey Manifold, Susan Massara, Tara Mastrorilli, Christine McEvilly, Ralf Peetz, Dimitrios Pavlidis, Keith Pisons, Angelina Raio, Laxmi Ramasubramanian, Lisa Roe, Adrian Rosales, Alex Scott, Tobias Schaefer, Suzy Shepardson, Jessica Stein, Amy Stempler, Brenda Valentin, Robert Wallace, George Wang, Rhoda Wilson.

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

I. Approval of the agenda.
   Motion seconded, and passed.

II. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Senate of October 17th, 2024.
   Moved, seconded, and passed.

III. Executive Committee Report (Appendix A)

IV. Provost's Report

   - Updates on enrollment and retention
   - Programming to encourage productive conversations and interactions
   - Faculty accolades

V. Consent Agenda:

DEGREE CHANGES
   UNDERGRADUATE
   1. Department of Engineering & Environmental Science
      1. Change in existing degree: Earth and Environmental Sciences BS
      2. Change in existing degree: Earth Science 7-12 BS
      3. Change in existing degree: Engineering Science BS: Computer Engineering Specialization
   2. Department of Nursing
      1. Change in existing degree: Nursing BS
   3. Department of Mathematics
      1. Change in existing minor: Mathematics Minor
   4. Department of Mathematics and Department of Computer Science
      1. Change in existing degree: Computer Science/Mathematics BS
   5. Department of Biology
      1. Change in existing degree: Biology BS
      2. Change in existing degree: Biology 7-12 BS
      3. Change in existing degree: Medical Laboratory Science BS
   6. Department of Computer Science
      1. Change in existing degree: Computer Science BS

NEW COURSES
   UNDERGRADUATE
   1. Department of Engineering & Environmental Science
      1. New course: GEO 3XX Geomorphology
   2. Department of Biology

1. New course: BIO 3XX Public Health Nutrition
3. Department of Computer Science
    1. New course: CSC 4XX Virtual and Augmented Reality
4. Department of Computer Science and Department of Engineering and Environmental Science
    1. New course: CSC/ESC 1XX Introduction to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Research

CHANGES IN EXISTING COURSES
  UNDERGRADUATE
1. Department of Engineering & Environmental Science
   a. Change in existing course: ESC 200 Environmental Applications of GIS
   b. Change in existing course: GEO 210 Earth Materials
   c. Change in existing course: GEO 212 Sedimentology
   d. Change in existing course: GEO 310 Geochemistry
   e. Change in existing course: GEO 410 Geospatial Data Analysis
   f. Change in existing course: ENS 439 Systems Laboratory
2. Department of Nursing
   a. Change in existing course: NRS 411 Leadership and Management in Nursing
3. Department of Sociology/Anthropology, Program in African and African Diaspora Studies, and Program in International Studies
   a. Change in existing course: ANT/SOC/AAD/INT 235 Policing and Mass Incarceration
   b. Change in existing course: ANT/SOC/INT/LACL 307 Caribbean Societies
4. Department of Mathematics
   a. Change in existing course: MTH 441 Topology
   b. Change in existing course: MTH 306 History of Mathematical Thought
   c. Change in existing course: MTH 311 Probability Theory and Introduction to Mathematics Statistics
   d. Change in existing course: MTH 329 Geometry
   e. Change in existing course: MTH 330 Applied Mathematical Analysis
   f. Change in existing course: MTH 335 Numerical Analysis
   g. Change in existing course: MTH 350 Mathematical Logic
   h. Change in existing course: MTH 431 Complex Analysis
   i. Change in existing course: MTH 437 Introduction to Mathematical Modeling
   j. Change in existing course: MTH 445 Introduction to Differential Geometry
   k. Withdraw course: MTH 236 Accelerated Calculus
5. Department of Mathematics and Department of Biology
   a. Change in existing course: MTH/BIO Mathematical Biology
6. Department of Biology

  a. Change in existing course: MLS 410 Clinical Training: Microbiology/Parasitology/Mycology

  b. Change in existing course: MLS 420 Clinical Training: Blood Banking

  c. Change in existing course: MLS 430 Clinical Training: Hematology/Coagulation

  d. Change in existing course: MLS 440 Clinical Training: Chemistry

 7. Department of Chemistry

  a. Change in existing course: CHM 337 Experimental Methods in Physical Chemistry

  b. Change in existing course: CHM 377 Experimental Biochemistry

GRADUATE

 1. Department of Computer Science

  a. Change in existing course: CSC 733 Natural Language Processing

Consent Agenda seconded, and passed.

VI. New Program: Medical Laboratory Science Post Baccalaureate Certificate
Motion to approve new program seconded, and passed.

VII. Reports of the Committees of the Faculty Senate

1. Academic Freedom Committee encourages attendance at January 6th event (Friday Dec. 6 at 2:30pm on Zoom. Register here: https://bmcc-cuny.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArcuqgrjoiH9Oj9a8Tuz4_8uvtcPiO3o2b)

2. Academic Technology report presented by Dimitri Pavlidis
   - There is still an opening on the committee, to be filled by someone from the School of Education
   - Focus group on Artificial Intelligence (first meeting will likely be December or January, contact anyone on the committee with comments or to get involved)
   - Request from body for collaboration between the AI group and the new ad hoc Asynchronous Online Learning committee

3. Library report presented by Assoc. Dean Amy Stempler (Appendix B)

VIII. University Faculty Senate Report (Prof. John Verzani)

1. Update on Lipmann Report and Faculty Governance: https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/2024/10/11/lippman-report-and-faculty-governance/

2. Information on grading policies: https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/2024/11/14/interrelated-grade-policy-questions/

3. Recent UFS updates can be found at the UFS Blog: https://www1.cuny.edu/sites/cunyufs/ufs-blog/

IX. Old Business

1. Open nominations for Faculty Personnel Policy Committee (FPPC) representative
   - Moved to December meeting

X. New Business

1. Navigate CSI report (Veronica DiMeglio, Curriculum Coordinator, Carey Manifold, Assistant Provost for Student Success, and Tara Mastrorilli, Director, Office of Institutional Research)
   - Discussion various kinds of student alerts that can be set up
   - Question about Navigate integrating with CUNYfirst/DegreeWorks (not possible due to CUNY Central rules)
   - System *is* working for retention, but there are still many students who don't respond. Freshman Forgiveness is an option for some students. Reach out to Student Affairs with any extreme or concerning cases.
   - Thanks to Prof. Wilma Jones for training and participation

VI. Announcements - none

VI. Adjournment. Motion made, seconded, and passed at 4:20pm

Appendix A: Faculty Senate Executive Report for November 12, 2024

On November 12, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee met with the provost, deans, as well as Chief Librarian Amy Stempler. We discussed an oral history project collected from alumni that the Office of Institutional Advancement carried out in 2021. We learned that this resulted in a book called "2021 in My Words," which has alumni stories in it. I have not yet been able to look at the book.

We discussed the new multifactor authentication and raised concerns about dead spots on the campus without WiFi. The new process requires that students access their email or the new authenticator app, which requires WiFi. OIT seems to be interested in finding out where WiFi gaps may be, so please contact Patty Kahn if you have difficulty connecting with WiFi in particular areas so that she can address it with IT's Director of Networking. There was a discussion about the tech needs of the library as multifactor authentication is phased in.

We followed up on the idea of a survey on transportation needs that would go out from the administration to students and faculty from the administration and said that we are working on having a committee dealing with the issue. This is needed to bring together input from the administration, faculty, staff and students as regards the survey questions.

There was a discussion on retention and the deans outlined how they approach the problem. The most important thing was that faculty turn in the early warning. This allows staff to follow up with students having trouble in class and actually increases the retention rate from 70 to 75 percent. They mentioned the reinvigoration of a dashboard that shows classes with a high level of Ds, Fs, and Ws as a way to find out the pain points of certain classes and see how to deal with them.

We then went over the honorary degree process. The deadline to nomination someone is tomorrow, Nov. 15. Please submit nominations to the provost by then.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Smith-Peter

Appendix B: Library Report from Chief Librarian/Assoc. Dean Amy Stempler

Although the library has had to absorb some cuts, we are very pleased to announce that we acquired permanent access to the historical archive of the Staten Island Advance from America's News by Newsbank from 1945 until 1991, with more recent access provided through our annual subscription available in our alphabetical list of databases. We are thrilled to be able to offer this resource that will benefit the campus community, complement the Library's Willowbrook Archive, and be a boot for borough stewardship.

I also wanted to let everyone know about access to our new Vinyl Collection on the first floor with selected LPs and a record player.

It is also never too early to start thinking about Spring. We encourage faculty who may have (free) instructor or desk copies of textbooks to please donate them to the Library for our students.

 And if anyone is so inclined, we have a Pop-up Store that will be live until the 17th.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me:

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