Plenary Meeting
2 PM
March 17, 2016
Shepard Hall 250

AGENDA

Call to order 2:00 PM
Approval of the minutes from Plenary Meeting of February 18, 2016 2:05 – 2:07 PM
Remarks of the Chair 2:07 – 2:10 PM
Report of the President 2:10 – 2:20 PM
Report of the Provost 2:20 – 2:25 PM
Report of Faculty Senate Committees 2:25 – 3:10 PM
  Executive Committee
  Resolution on the COACHE survey
  Educational Policy
  Resolutions on grading at City College
  Senate Affairs
  Elections to the University Faculty Senate.
  Phase III of the revision of the Faculty Senate Bylaws
Vote on the 2016 City College Strategic Plan/Vantage Point 3:10 – 3:20 PM
Report of the Ombuds 3:20 – 3:30 PM
Old Business
New Business
Adjournment 3:30 PM
Minutes of the
Faculty Senate Plenary
February 18, 2016
Shepard Hall 250
The City College

Present:

College Administration. Provost Trevisan; Chief of Staff Hartnett; Chief of Staff H. Balmer; VP Hill, VP Reina, Executive Counsel Occhiogrosso


Excused: J. Gonzalez

The meeting was called to order at 2:08PM

The minutes from Plenary Meeting of December 17, 2015 & Special Plenary Meeting of February 4, 2016 were approved 2:09PM

Remarks of the Chair 2:10PM

Prof Jeruzalmi alerted the Senate to letter-writing efforts related to the State budget, mentioned that the CLAS is taking the lead in the search for a new Dean of the Division of Arts and Humanities, announced that the new integrity officer is Prof. Josh Wilner, noted that the College-wide Resources Committee is working on a response to the RF reply to the Senate’s claims and complaints, and reminded the Senate that elections to the vacant seats on the University Faculty Senate will take place in March.
Report of Faculty Senate Committees

1., Executive Committee 2:16PM
Resolution on the COACHE survey
After extended discussion, the resolution was tabled to allow the EC include language on the budget.

2., Educational Policy Committee 2:51PM
a., Resolution on the Experiential Learning and Graduation Requirements (which in the December meeting fell short of the required 33 votes) was now reintroduced and approved by acclamation.
b., Amended-Resolutions to Address Issues with Letter Grades at City College, Introduced by the Transition to the CUNYFirst Software Tool: the resolution was approved by a vote of 37:0:1 (requires 33 to pass).

Presentation on the 2016 City College Strategic Plan 3:01PM
The slides of Provost Trevisan’s presentation will be made available on line.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:11PM

Submitted,
Andras Kisery
Secretary
Proposed Action Plan in Response to the Results of the 2015 COACHE Survey

Whereas the Faculty Senate believes that the deep and widespread faculty dissatisfaction revealed by the 2015 COACHE survey cannot be fixed with minor adjustments and initiatives, but requires a deep change in the College’s commitments;

And whereas our current period of fiscal exigency threatens to compromise the College’s central mission and alter its character;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate propounds the following core principles and practices, derived from the work of the original constituent committees convened in Spring 2013 for the Strategic Plan, as initial steps toward improving the College.

1. **Recommit to the College’s historic mission of providing an affordable public education equal to that of elite private institutions.** In straitened financial circumstances, sacrifice administrative services and ancillary programs in order to maintain the college’s core mission of providing underserved students the opportunity to study with outstanding practitioners of research, scholarship, and artistic creation. Accept that while we cannot provide students the social experience of a residential college, as a public, diverse institution in the heart of New York City we can provide an education of unparalleled intellectual richness and cultural diversity.

2. **Develop a culture that values learning, problem-solving, discovery, the intellectual, the aesthetic, and the just for their inherent value.** Resist the temptation to sacrifice standards, student excellence, and the excitement of ideas for retention and graduation rates. Make high expectations a regular subject of faculty discourse. Eliminate students’ ability to retake courses multiple times, which drains resources. Instead, the College should provide better instruction and support to ensure that students can meet high standards.

3. **Commit to pedagogy that supports student success and active learning.** Maintain small class size and lower faculty-student ratio. Use technology judiciously when it enhances intellectual experiences. Increase the number of full-time faculty teaching lower-division courses and include discussions of expectations in orientations for new adjuncts. Make excellent teaching and availability for students a requirement for tenure and promotion. Increase opportunities for student research and other forms of inquiry-based or experiential learning. Support and develop bridge programs that identify, cultivate, and recruit talented students from underrepresented ethnic or socioeconomic groups.

4. **Recognize and support faculty research and scholarship** Clarify faculty performance expectations and measures. Reward faculty excellence appropriately. Make more funding available for conference travel, small research projects, new hardware and software for
research-active faculty. Make resources available for faculty roundtables and seminars to enrich the intellectual life of the college. Formulate strategies for the College to rise as a national and international leader in strategic research and educational areas by coordinating faculty talents from multiple disciplines, research, scholarship, and instructional resources; formulating Centers and Institutes of Excellence; and identifying external resources to support these signature programs via competitive external funding programs and/or philanthropy.

5. **Establish priorities among schools, divisions, departments, and programs in order to strengthen the college as a whole.** Invest in academic programs that are flourishing, but ensure that the success of one school, division, department, or program will rebound to success of the College. Do not tolerate great disparities in the quality of student education based on choice of major.

6. **Require a culture of excellence in facilities.** Maintain basic standards of cleanliness and functionality in the spaces of research, scholarship, creativity, and instruction.

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**Results by Question**

1. **Shall the matter be adopted? (Multiple Choice)**

   ![Chart showing responses]

   - **In favor?** 92.11% (35 responses)
   - **Opposed?** 2.63% (1 response)
   - **Abstain?** 5.26% (2 responses)
   - **Totals** 100% (38 responses)
Resolution on Changing the Pass/Fail option to Pass/NC option

Whereas, the current policy on Pass/Fail requires students to elect this option in the first week of the semester, which is before they have had sufficient exposure to course material, and is consequently rarely used, and

Whereas our current implementation of Pass/Fail grading is inconsistent in that the P grade has no effect on the student’s GPA, but the F has a negative effect, and

Whereas, some other Colleges in CUNY have converted their Pass/Fail grading to Pass/No Credit (NC) grading,

Resolved, that a student can elect at any time in her/his studies to take up to 12 credits, except for courses required for her/his major, minor, and Pathways English Composition I and II, as Pass/NC.

Be it further resolved, that students must elect the Pass/NC option to the Registrar by the withdrawal date for courses.

Be it further resolved, that individual Schools of the College and/or the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences may opt out of the policy.

Proposed Bulletin Entry Changes

The bulletin should be changed to include the following after the Pass/NC policy: “Eligibility for some financial aid grants may be affected by use of P/NC grades. Students are responsible for checking if this applies to them before the P/NC option is taken.”
Resolution on Grading City College’s College Now courses

Whereas, CUNY mandates that the grades of all College Now courses appear on their permanent transcripts without an identifying notation as being taken in high school, and

Whereas an F in a College Now course may seriously damage a student’s ability to go to college or graduate school,

Resolved, that the grades for high school students in the College Now program courses be restricted to A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, and NC.