

Executive Committee Minutes
August 19, 2014, 3:00 pm
Senate Office

Present: Professors Jeruzalmi (chair), Gallagher (ombuds, ex officio without vote), Gutman, Handy, Miller

I. Minutes of the July 17 Executive Committee meeting were approved by acclamation.

II. Report of the chair

- A. The chair is implementing new records procedures. Minutes of all meetings should be sent to Jasmine Love immediately after their approval.
- B. The college's Start-up New York application has been approved by the State of New York. The president acknowledged receipt of our letter and our expression for a need for sensitivity about site selection.
- C. The Faculty-Student Disciplinary Committee has been constituted: Sherri Rings, June Williamson, Peyman Honarmandi, Being me Fu, Reza Khayat, and Gladys Carro. The chairs have a term until 2015 and will continue: Carlos Riobo, Susan Pittson, and Robert Laurich. CUNY Student Complaint Procedure: Peter Brass has agreed to serve. The chair will invite Marie Nazon to serve.
- D. The resolution prohibiting departments from profit-making on course materials was declined by the CUNY Board of Trustees. The chair will seek further information and will discuss this with the committee in September.
- E. A week ago, Denise Dyce, director of Labor Relations, contacted Jasmine Love regarding Senate records and then contacted her again asking detailed questions regarding Senate terms. The chair has made clear to Ms. Dyce that it is not appropriate for her to ask the chair's assistant questions about Senate matters. The sense of the committee was that Ms. Dyce's inquiries to Jasmine Love are inappropriate and a form of intimidation. The committee agreed that the chair should ask the president about the relationship between the Dyce investigation and the Stacey Gray process, and why two different investigations are being conducted simultaneously.
- F. The committee considered the president's proposal to appoint Prof. Marom Bikson to the position of college conflicts officer. The committee decided that the chair should request a copy of Prof. Bikson's curriculum vitae and an explanation of whether and how he will be compensated for the position.
- G. The committee considered the request of the Honorary Degree Committee that the college grant an honorary degree, at a presentation this fall, to alumnus Michael Pope. The committee approved it, charging the chair to draft a letter expressing its approval but also its concerns about the fact that this is being done out-of-cycle.
- H. Executive Committee meetings for the Fall semester will occur on the second Thursday of each month, from 2:00 to 4:00.

III. Discussion of priorities for the next year

The committee agreed that its core priorities for the 2014-15 academic year are: continuing to urge for progress in the condition of facilities, working to achieve greater budget transparency, and continuing to urge for improvements in information technology. Additional priorities include pushing for improvements and efficiencies in Research Administration, working to supplement the Report of the President's Committee on Inclusive Excellence, revising the Senate bylaws, and increasing Senate's outreach to faculty. The committee decided to work on more effective communication with the PCIE.

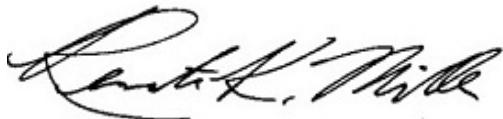
IV. New business

- A. The committee discussed the need for a clearinghouse that provides students with information about research opportunities. Marta Gutman will ask the Student Affairs Committee to develop a proposal.
- B. The committee discussed the formation of various ad hoc committees that exist outside of faculty governance, including: the committee that handles works of art on campus, the PCIE, and the Honorary Degree Committee. The committee decided that it would ask the administration for greater transparency about the mission and existence of such committees.
- C. The committee decided that we should ask the PCIE to work on recruiting underrepresented minority students from the local community.
- D. The committee reviewed a letter drafted by Marta Gutman and Ellen Handy as part of a Senate outreach effort. The committee agreed to edit it by email in the next few days.

V. Report of the ombuds

The ombuds described the problems caused by CUNYFirst and Degreeworks being directly tied to Financial Aid. Students are losing financial aid and having it "clawed back" for "non-conforming" programs. Students who change fields are particularly harmed. The committee agreed that the Senate should consider a resolution asking the University Faculty Senate to address this.

Respectfully submitted,



Renata Kobetts Miller