**Minutes of the**

**Faculty Senate Plenary**

**December 20, 2012**

**Shepard Hall 250**

**The City College of New York**

**Present**: President Coico, Interim Provost Trevisan, Deputy Chief Hartnett, VP Bank, Sr. Associate Provost Cintron,   
VP Krawitz, VP Posman, AVP Lloyd, Executive Director M.R. Strzeszewski; Deans: E. Driscoll, G. Ranalli, E. Weitz; Senators: R. Alfano, H. Carter, B. Crain, J. Davis, J. Gallagher, E. Handy, R. Kalia, C. Lascar, J. Lee, M. Lutz D. McLurkin, S. Pittson,   
A. Ratner, R. Raj, C. Watkins, J. Wilner; Student Representatives: K. Dennie, E. Lopez  
**Excused**: A. Indych-Lopez

**Guests**: G. Smith, A. Tinajero

1. The meeting was called to order at 2:08 p.m.
2. Suzanne Pittson was approved to take minutes of the December 20, 2012 meeting.
3. The minutes of the November 15, 2012 meeting were approved.
4. Remarks of the Chair–Professor Raj

* Expressed condolences to all those families affected by Hurricane Sandy and the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut. Observed a moment of silence to honor the innocent lives lost.
* Despite the challenges we are facing in our institution, if we resolve to work together with harmony and patience, utilizing the abundance of knowledge, virtues and wisdom in the CCNY faculty, we will prevail over these difficult times.
* **Summary of 2012:** Many great College-wide lectures and conferences; Several changes in College Governance have been implemented which benefit the Faculty and students; new faculty orientation was started; several important positions were filled; we have participated extensively in the community; have taken action on Inclusion and Excellence; We have opened the doors of transparency – College budget and other matters.
* The Executive Committee met on December 13 and:
* Discussed the budget – cutting back excess spending and effective utilization of resources – with Interim Provost Trevison. Made plan to meet with the President, Provost, VP of Finance and PSC leader to develop methods to overcome budget cuts.
* Approved the recommendations of the Honorary Degree Committee for the award of Honorary Degrees and President’s Medals at the 2012-2013 graduation ceremony.
* Approved the offering of 8 new courses in the Sustainability Program.
* Approved the resolutions proposed by EPC on D-grade Repeat Policy and Calculation of the Major GPA.
* Approved the resolution on Change in College Governance to have two faculty representatives serve on the Review Committee. This comes with a strong recommendation of the FCPM and it still falls short of whatever governance is in existence at other CUNY campuses.
* Endorsed two new initiatives by the President – the Faculty Award for Excellence and for Outstanding Service.
* Discussed the need for Guidelines for Target-Hiring.
* Discussed issues relating to general education and deviation from faculty workload guidelines.
* A sub-committee of Bill Crain, Joshua Wilner, Alan Feigenberg (Absentia) and Rishi Raj met to discuss matters of Online/Hybrid courses, which has also been discussed by the President’s cabinet and the PSC chapter. Guidelines will be presented at the February 2013 meeting.
* Professor Raj attended the Alumni’s College Affairs Committee and proposed that they help to adopt and mentor our students in Humanities and the Arts, Social Sciences, and other areas. This program already exists in Engineering.
* At a recent UFS plenary, a Moratorium on Pathways resolution passed, and PSC has now filed two lawsuits, which are pending.
* **At a recent CUNY-wide Governance leaders meeting, in which Professor Raj represents the college, a review took place relating to faculty participation in matters of Promotion, Tenure and Appeals at all the CUNY colleges. The CCNY faculty is least represented in the Review Committee and does not have a vote. Professor Raj will work with FCPM and the Governance Committee on creating a pattern similar to those existing in other CUNY colleges.**
* Professor Raj participated in the college’s initial IT Strategic Plan meeting, and suggests that we first have a college master strategic plan ready so that it can provide guidance to the independent divisions of the college in the preparation of their plans.
* Professor Raj would like to revisit issues he has mentioned in the Senate Plenary for several years:
* Evening sessions
* Strengthen technology implementation
* Prepare special curriculum to engage/produce entrepreneurs and global leaders.
* Establish a permanent general scholarship fund for students in need.
* **The President/Provost/Senate Chair should meet with the DP once per semester.**
* An injection of high quality international students will generate revenue of almost 10 million per year and raise the graduation rate, retention and the quality of education.
* Carefully fill in “acting” positions.
* Help our athletic teams move from level III to level II, in order to attract a higher quality student.

1. Remarks of the President–President Staiano-Coico:

* Observed a moment of silence and reflection in light of the horrific tragedies that occurred in Newtown, CT.
* Thank you to the faculty senate for everything you’ve done. It’s been a good, productive year and you’ve been very thoughtful in your attention to the success of our students and the success of our faculty.
* Encouraged everyone to attend the holiday reception to see the level and extent of the scholarship and creative works of our faculty and staff. It reflects the diversity of opinions and perspectives of the CCNY faculty and staff. It’s very helpful to see each other’s work.
* We continue to work together to find solutions to our budget challenges. We plan to convene discussions in January and February.
* General Education has to be an important piece of the January/February discussion. The General Education courses for our students are very critical in terms of allowing them not only to press through, but also to provide breadth of experience for our undergraduates, as opposed to just their focused track.
* Encouraged everyone to get some down time over the break, to decompress from the recent tragedies.
* A question was raised about the increasing class size, which makes it difficult to get to know the students and necessitates the need for shorter papers and multiple-choice exams. Is there a way to economize that does not affect the class size?
* Administration has already started looking at cutting the consultant budget. Also exploring other options such as Federal Work study, which we have not been taking advantage of.
* Time for us to have intellectual discussions about the best way to offer classes – some classes should remain smaller, while others are great in a larger format. These kinds of ideas have not been discussed previously and should be included in our talks in January and February

1. Items for Approval (Resolutions):

* 8 New Sustainability Courses – Resolution Passed
* Participation of Faculty Representatives in the Review Committee– Resolution Passed
* Resolutions from the Education Policy Committee:
  + - D Grade Repeat Policy–Resolution Passed
    - Calculation for Major GPA–Resolution Passed

1. Report of the Ombudsperson–Professor Gallagher

* One word to describe this semester–Emotional. The effects of Hurricane Sandy and the tragedy at Newtown, CT are going to continue well into next semester.
* Need to start thinking about what constitutes progress in a major. Met with many students who have a large number of credits but are not advancing successfully toward a degree. Careful advisement can help the students be successful. If not doing well in a major, we have the right to encourage them to go in another direction in order to be successful.
* Question came up about graduating students without a major–a Liberal Arts Degree.
* While some students are explorers, and may need time to find their major, others don’t receive the advisement they need.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Pittson