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**The Faculty Senate**

**The City College of New York**

**Executive Committee Minutes**

**May 6, 2014, 4:00 pm**

**Senate Office**

Present: Professors Jeruzalmi (chair), Handy, Miller, Moshary, Sohler

\*Prof. Watkins resigned from the Executive Committee

The Chair reported on a letter, dated February 1, 2014, from Prof. Simon Simms, Chair of Chemistry, requesting the Faculty Senate to remove Prof. Charlie Watkins. The Chair decided not to act on the request in the letter and would not bring it to the plenary. The committee supported the Chair’s decision.

The committee approved by acclamation the appointments of the following 6 people, recommended by Ramona Hernandez and approved by the President, to the Board of the Dominican Studies Institute for 3 year terms: Julia Cornelio, William Rodriguez, Benny Lorenzo, Daisy Cocco De Filippis, William Batista, and Ana Garcia Reyes.

Following on the recommendation of Ramona Hernandez and the approval of the President, the committee approved by acclamation the reappointments of Dr. Ramona Hernandez, Dr. Janis Massa, Dean Juan Carlos Mercado, to the Dominican Studies Executive Committee for 2-year terms, and the appointments of Dr. Susan Oboler and Dr. James Biles to the Committee for 2-year terms.

The Executive Committee needs to nominate 6 faculty members to the Faculty Student Discipline Committee, and 2 faculty members to serve on the committee that considers complaints that follow the CUNY Student Complaint Procedure. Each member of the committee will seek nominees from his/her own division and submit names to Prof. Moshary.

The committee approved by acclamation Prof. Jeff Blustein as Interim Chair of the Academic Integrity Committee.

The Chair shared Prof. Elizabeth Matthews’s request that the Senate establish a permanent Online/Hybrid Learning Task Force. The chair will follow-up on Prof. Matthews’s recommendations and request.

Items that will be on the agenda for the next plenary include:

1. Annual Report of the Executive Committee
2. Certification of graduates
3. Bylaws revision

The committee discussed emails that were sent by Professors Watkins and Kalia to various faculty the previous week, including emails about Saman Rashadi in the Grove School of Engineering. The Chair related that on May 5, in a meeting that included Dean of Diversity Michele Baptiste and Chief of Staff Debbie Hartnett, the President informed him that he and Professor Watkins would be required to participate in mediation. The Chair and Prof. Watkins were each asked to choose two names from a list of three attorneys, and the president would select the attorney. Upon further inquiry on May 6, the Chair was told that there would be no mediation, but that the President is appointing an investigator. This action is not a response to an official complaint, but a response to the volume of emails regarding Prof. Daniel Akins, Saman Rashadi, and allegations about Senate elections. The investigator will issue a report and make recommendations to the President. We will not see report.

The committee expressed concern and skepticism about the lack of clarity in this process. Is it a “mediation” or an “investigation”? Who are the parties, and why? Is it an investigation of the Chair, or the Executive Committee, or the Senate as a whole? What are the charges or complaints? What is the basis for this action? The Executive Committee agreed that the Chair should write a letter asking for clarification and refusing to participate in such a process without an opportunity to seek counsel.

Respectfully submitted,



Renata Miller