

**Joint Meeting: SPS – FPS  
Minutes  
October 22, 2012**

**Present:** James Llana (*SPS Chair*), Robert Pignatello (*FPS Chair*), Ricardo Anzaldúa, Tom Kucharski, Jane Bowers, Kinya Chandler, Janice Dunham, Jay Hamilton, Karen Kaplowitz, Patricia Ketterer, Mariani Mewengkang (*Recorder*)

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1. Approval of Minutes for October 22, 2012. Minutes were approved as proposed.
  
2. Presentation of NSSE Results. Jim presented the latest NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) results from earlier this year. NSSE is administered to freshman and senior students, but it may be useful to survey sophomores and juniors next time since there is no reason to believe that changes occur suddenly to seniors. The survey was administered by sending it to the students' college email address, which can be inefficient since our students do not tend to check their college email accounts. The response rate was 15%, which is lower than we would like, but the number of responses does allow reliable conclusions. Tom asked if we are allowed to give the students some incentive to participate in the survey. Ric said that while it isn't recommended, the NSSE board wouldn't stop it. The data for John Jay is compared with data from three other groups of schools, with the "Mid East Publics" (3 of the 9 are CUNY schools) most closely resembling John Jay.  
Compared to students at other colleges, John Jay students, especially at the senior level, spend more time working for pay. On another context indicator, John Jay has a relatively low level of student participation in clubs and extracurricular activities. Rob mentioned that there has been an increase in the number of clubs at the college. The relatively large amount of time spent commuting probably holds down this participation, but students who do not participate miss out on an important part of the John Jay education. Tom suggested that being in New York City, the students have so many other options, and that they live within their own social circles off campus.  
The presentation, which is being sent in Powerpoint to SPS/FPS members, reviewed the five NSSE "benchmarks," which reflect the results from groups of questions: Student-Faculty Interaction; Level of Academic Challenge; Active and Collaborative Learning; Enriching Educational Experiences; and Supportive Campus Environment. In addition, we looked at responses to some particular questions where differences between John Jay and comparator institutions were striking.  
Many of the largest differences between John Jay students and the comparator groups occurred for seniors; areas of weakness in previous years often turned up weak in 2012. Active and Collaborative Learning showed a large difference for seniors, as did Enriching Educational Experiences.  
The NSSE results also indicated that John Jay students do poorly on things where time needs to be scheduled outside of class, such as team-based projects. Because a majority of our students spend a fair amount of time commuting, and many work, scheduling time outside class may prove to be a challenge. However, it is important to try to improve these numbers as working with other students has proven to be beneficial.

Jim said that these results will be shared with Student Affairs. We will do some focus groups with the students to understand better the reasons for some of the results. In overall terms, we should incorporate NSSE results into our planning discussions in the spring.

3. Budget Planning Website. In order to effectively communicate information regarding the College's budget plan, Jim is creating a budgeting/planning website. We need to discuss how we want the site to look and what types of information we should include. Karen suggests adding dates for when the fiscal periods start and end. There should also be information about the membership of the different committees. We should include the Charter of Governance so we can know how membership is defined, and how the committees are put together. Jay recommended building the website like a blog to break up the text into smaller sections. Karen also said the website shouldn't be intimidating. With general approval of the text and information, Jim will return with a proposal that will convey a better sense of the look and feel of the website before moving to posting.
4. Adjustments for Financial Plan. Recently the rules regarding veteran benefits have changed. TAP used to cover the difference in tuition for out-of-state veterans. If John Jay chooses to honor the coverage cost, our tuition revenue will be reduced by about \$300,000. The committee agreed that John Jay must honor the commitments we've made to our veteran students. It is also important because our reputation as a veteran-friendly school is something we've included in our narrative.  
There is another development that will result in a revenue reduction. The full CUNY tuition rate now exceeds the NYS maximum TAP award of \$5,000. As a result of the University policy to waive the tuition increase for those students who cannot afford it, the college waives \$600 of the tuition for those students who have unmet need after they receive their TAP Award. Given our population of students, this has a large impact on the revenue collected.
5. Agenda Items for Balance of the Fall. The first quarter reports should be coming in soon. Enrollment, marketing and space need to be on parallel tracks. Jane would also like ideas and proposals for new academic programs. Suggestions for agenda items should be made to Jim.