CUNY Faculty Affairs Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

November 10, 2017
205 East 42nd Street, Rooms 818/819 (8th floor)
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Participants: Julissa Alvarez-Diaz, CCNY; Kathleen Barker, Medgar Evers/UFS; Avrom Caplan, OAA/Research; Kay Conway, BMCC/UFS; Angela Crossman, John Jay; Madeline Ford, Hostos; Michael Guy, OAA; Eric Hofmann, LaGCC; Angie Kamath, OAA; Catherine Leaker, KCC; Jonathan Levitt, CCNY; Dan McCloskey, OAA/Research; Ann Mester, Hostos Luis Montenegro, BCC; Elke Nicolai, Hunter; Annemarie Nichols-Grinenko, OAA; Moses Phillips, Medgar Evers; Patricia Price, Baruch; Albert Robinson, BCC; Patricia Sokoloski, LaGCC; Zun Tang, OAA/IR; Alexandra Tarasko, QCC; Vincent Walker, BCC; Michael Wolfe, Queens

1) Welcome and Announcements
   ● At the request of several members, this meeting was the first at which members could participate remotely via WebEx. After agreement from today’s participants, this practice will be continued for all future meetings.
   ● Avrom Caplan announced that registration is now open for the January 2018 CUNY Community College Research Grant Program’s Faculty Development Workshop. Community and senior college faculty are welcome to participate.

2) Approval of Minutes of meeting of September 25, 2017
   ● The minutes were approved.

3) Topics for Next Semester’s Meetings
   ● Suggestions, including those submitted via email, included:
     ○ An update on Pathways outcomes
     ○ Articulation agreements and course equivalencies
     ○ The new AP policy approved by the Board of Trustees
     ○ CUNY’s program approval process for new programs
     ○ Intellectual property issues – especially as they relate to online courses
Part time faculty professional development support issues

4) Discussion: Connected CUNY – Career Success

- Angie Kamath, University Dean for Continuing Education and Workforce Development, presented an overview of the work that is being conducted on this pillar of the strategic framework and then solicited feedback from FAAB members. Her presentation is posted on the Faculty Affairs Advisory Board (FAAB) website.

- Discussion issues and comments:
  - Several members were dismayed to learn that CUNY graduates earn less after college than graduates of other institutions, especially since they live in one of the most expensive cities in the country. A discussion about fine-tuning this data analysis to determine whether CUNY graduates are choosing industries that tend to pay lower salaries.
  - Faculty need to do a better job of communicating the value of a liberal arts education to industry. This should be part of the strategy for this pillar. Angie indicated that her team has data that could help make this argument.
  - We need to help our students with “soft skills” that are important to successfully obtaining and advancing in the workplace. When doing so, we need to consider that our students not only have fewer resources, they also may have anxieties about their ability to compete. We need to help change the mindset of some of our students.
  - Success in the 21st century is about working in teams, but the academy is all about grading and evaluating students as individuals. We need to give our students more experience with team work.
  - CUNY needs to find a better way to connect with its alumni and to bring them back to “give back” to current students. It is difficult for many CUNY colleges to even get a good, comprehensive list of alumni.
  - We need to think about how to embed and bring curricular changes to scale outside of business courses.
  - We should be careful about not being too linear when creating career maps. Many of our students take non-linear paths. For those who “fall off,” there should be ways for them to get back in.
  - Currently, CUNY students who get paid internships are in their last year or so of college. Our students could really benefit from paid field experience early on. This could be helpful for both students who think they know what they want to do and those who don’t. The WiTNY program was cited as an example of a CUNY program that provides paid internships from the start of the student’s academic career.
  - More than half of our students are transfers. We need to make sure they don’t miss out on career planning that our “native” students get when they first start at CUNY.
5) **Discussion: Predatory Journals**

- Daniel McCloskey, *Interim Associate Vice Chancellor and Vice Provost for Research*, used an example of an invitation he received from a predatory journal to present an overview of the relevant issues. He suggested that faculty discussion was necessary to address these issues and then led a discussion among FAAB members. His presentation is posted on the Faculty Affairs Advisory Board (FAAB) website.

- **Discussion issues and comments:**
  - Now that Beall’s list has been pulled down from the web, how do we help faculty figure out what journals are and aren’t predatory? Can CUNY create its own list, only available via password to avoid the legal issues that plagued Beall’s list? How would such a list be kept current? New predatory journals are popping up all the time.
    - Decisions about what is or isn’t a predatory journal need to be made at the sub-discipline level. Decisions made at the meta-level don’t work for emerging fields. Perhaps CUNY’s discipline councils could be helpful here.
    - In emerging or specialty fields there is also a concern that journals that are not known to the majority of faculty and/or the administration could be mistakenly mislabeled as predatory.
    - Web of Science and Thompson Reuter’s can be helpful in identifying predatory journals. Can we provide access to CUNY faculty, especially junior faculty and chairs?
  - The problem is not as simple as avoiding journals that require publication fees. Some very respected science journals, for example, charge fees. A request was made for a flowchart to help faculty evaluate journals.
  - CUNY’s Office of Research will look into what other universities are doing regarding this issue.