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Academic Affairs Updates

August 29, 2020 through September 11, 2020

Here are a few updates on what is happening in Academic Affairs.

Office of the Provost Matters

- Please see section below for Updates from CUNY Central.
- A recent survey of 975 incoming freshmen indicates that students come to John Jay eager to learn about (1) criminal justice reform, (2) cultural and social views of injustice, and (3) civil rights. These students as well as those in the Black Students' Union are asking for a curriculum that advances their understanding of the complex underpinnings of each of these issues, and that incorporates scholars of color into every syllabus. There is no one way to approach this, and good teaching requires that we use a variety of methods and skills-building opportunities to do it well. As Provost I ask all faculty to continue to innovate courses, to find ways to address systemic racism in their fields, to educate themselves in decolonizing and trauma-informed pedagogies, and to think about how we educate the future law enforcement officers and public servants that many of our students will become. Let's educate fierce advocates for justice.

Faculty Matters

- As per the CUNY Central update below, students will now have until the last day of classes in any given semester to withdraw (W) from a class. This semester, that date is **December 13, 2020**.
- In case you missed it, our students now have access to a brief online course to help prepare them for online learning. *Are You Ready?* is a Blackboard-based course (30-45 mins; self-paced) that covers basic technology proficiencies and requirements, Blackboard basics, online learning etiquette, and key skills

required for online learning. *Please encourage your students to complete the course* - perhaps for extra credit. Students are automatically enrolled - **Are You Ready?** can be found on the homepage of the student's Blackboard Page under "Organization".

- Faculty being considered for personnel actions: FIDO access will cease on **Tuesday, September 15th** (deadline was extended).
- Deadline to apply for fellowship leave (sabbatical) in Fall 2021 is **October 1st**. Please visit the *Faculty Services* website for the application form, as well as to find a wealth of additional information and resources for faculty, with more to come: <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/faculty-services>

Institutional Effectiveness Matters

- **TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTER:** Next Tuesday, September 15 from 2:00-3:00 pm the TLC will host an open conversation on "*How Do Students and Faculty Discuss Latinx Racial Justice?*" Email TLC@jjay.cuny.edu for the zoom link.
- **DEPARTMENT OF ONLINE EDUCATION AND SUPPORT:** Faculty who may be interested in creating more engaging online activities and online assessments, or learning how to implement collaborative or critical thinking tools within an online course can schedule a one-on-one meeting with a DOES instructional designer. Go to: <http://jjay.cuny.edu/elearning-lab-reservation>. Select "Schedule a Virtual Meeting." A calendaring system will appear and you can choose a convenient time to meet.
- **DATA POINTS OF INTEREST:**

1. According to the [Brookings Institute](#), **John Jay is one of only fourteen colleges in the country that has higher graduation rates for Pell recipients than non-Pell students and for black students than white students.** This group includes elite institutions with small percentages of Pell recipients and black students, such as Dartmouth, Duke, and Yale as well as broader-access and more diverse colleges, such as CUNY's City and York Colleges, Florida Atlantic, and South Carolina-Upstate.
2. Of the 4204 grades that were converted from letter grades to CR in the spring 2020 semester, 1986 (49%) were **Cs**, 1297 (31%) were **Ds**, 840 (20%) **Bs**, and 81 (10%) **As**.

Graduate Studies Matters

- Working on online human resources master
- Search for sources

- Working on a re-branding project with the professors
- Working on a facebook live events "Is there a life after graduation" with the alumni
- Inez, director student services is on leave

Research Matters

- The Professional Staff Congress of the City University of New York (PSC-CUNY) Research Award Program has announced their 2020 grant competition. The submission deadline is December 15, 2020, and the Office of Sponsored Programs is offering to review proposals for completeness prior to submission - the deadline for this pre-review is December 7, 2020 at noon, no exceptions. For more information please visit <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/psc-cuny-research-award-program>, or contact the Office of Sponsored Programs at John Jay.

Operations Matters

- General: The University has established a Vacancy Review Board which must now review all full time vacancies and personnel actions. No actions may move forward without this committee's approval.
- Full time faculty: Faculty workload reporting for the AY 2019/2020 year is done. We are making some small changes to the eWorkload system and it will available with updated AY 2020/2021 data by the end of this month. Please be prepared to review and edit your reports as necessary for chair review.
- Adjuncts: All reappointments and non-reappointment letters have been issued via email. Adjuncts should check their college email account for their notification. EHRAFs for reappointments and new appointments have begun and are being approved continuously.
- Hourly Personnel: The University is authorizing hourly administrative appointments on a month-to- month basis until we have an approved budget in place. All reappointments and non-reappointment letters have been issued for the month of September so employees should check their college email accounts for their notifications. EHRAFs for reappointments and new appointments have begun and are being approved continuously. No information has been provided about October or other future months.

- OTPS: FY2020 is closed and we are beginning to work on projections and allocations for FY2021. We have received a very small emergency allocation from CUNY however departments will be notified when the FY2021 allocations are in place in CUNYfirst. The activity that generates the revenue to support Auxiliary Corporation allocations (food services, rentals, etc.) has been at a standstill due to COVID-19. Please do not plan on receiving an allocation this fiscal year.
- Travel: All domestic and international travel has been suspended until further notice. More information on travel is available at <https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/#academic-travel>.

From CUNY'S Office of Academic Affairs – Please see excerpt of a recent email from EVC JL Cruz to the colleges.

“As you know, in Spring 2020, we extended the deadline to withdraw (W grade) officially from a class from the original date of April 1st, 2020 until the end of regular classes to provide additional flexibility to students.

An analysis of Spring 2020 class withdrawals show that students benefited from this flexibility and that withdrawal rates were lower than in previous semesters. Furthermore, the number of retroactive withdrawal extension appeals decreased. This resulted in a reduced number of reported WU (Unofficial Withdrawals) grades which in turn 1) reduced reporting workloads associated to the recalculation of students financial aid information as these grades are treated as F's in a student's academic record and 2) reduced administrative work to reverse WU grades to W grades as a result of retroactive grade appeals from students.

[B]ased on the information above and after consulting with the Academic Policy Committee and the University Faculty Senate, we will permanently extend the date of the last day to withdraw from a class to the last day of classes for a particular semester. This information will be updated in the University's Academic Calendar: www.cuny.edu/calendar .”