

John Jay College of Criminal Justice

AGENDA

September 5th, 2025

9:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Zoom Meeting

<https://jjay-cuny.zoom.us/j/86447817671?pwd=nHVvIzFQib7eMGlx8htYvfWeZp2h9k.1>

Meeting ID: 864 4781 7671

Passcode: 824939

1. **Dean's Welcome** – Dean Andrew Sidman
 - a. Introductions of members and staff
 - b. NYSED Approval of our Revision to the BA in English for Fall 2026 offering
2. **Approval of the minutes of May 16th, 2025**
3. **Elections:**
 - a. **Faculty Vice Chairperson of UCASC**
 - b. **Honors Advisory Committee** – 2 members
 - i. Nominees: TBA
4. **UCASC Subcommittees: Academic Standards, Programs, Courses & General Education**
 - a. Upcoming work for this year for each
5. **Old Business** – None
6. **New Business**

Academic Programs/Student Academic Engagement Strategic Plan – Dean Sidman

General Education Update - Wynne Ferdinand

Faculty Opportunities: Open Educational Resources (OER) and Learning in Practice Initiatives – Wynne Ferdinand

John Jay College of Criminal Justice
City University of New York
Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee

Minutes of May 16, 2025

The Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee held a remote meeting May 16, 2025, at 9:45 A.M., on Zoom. Interim Dean Andrew Sidman called the meeting to order.

Voting Members Present: Alexa Capeloto, Roosbelinda Cardenas, Angelique Corthals, Crystal Endsley, Sergio Gallegos, Penny Geyer, Thomas Herndon, Kathy Killoran, Cristina Lozano Argüelles, Kelly McWilliams, Fatma Najar, Judy-Lynne Peters, Gohar Petrossian, Amada Santiago, Andrew Sidman, Shreya Subramani, Robert Till, Marisa Tramontano, Roberto Visani

Voting Members Absent: Anjalina Budhram, Jocelyn Castillo, Nina Rose Fischer, Sengkathirkumaran Kalamohan, Ma'at Lewis, Daniel Matos, Shavonne McKiever, Tracie Meyers, Dor Nave, Gregory Umbach

Non-voting Attendees Present: Cat Alves, Maggie Arismendi, Alexander Bolesta, Yaritma Cabral, Bettina Carbonell, Shu-Yuan Cheng, Virginia Diaz-Mendoza, Melissa Dolan, Suleima Ebrahim, Wynne Ferdinand, Jennifer Holst, Karen Kaplowitz, Lorena Laverde, Stacy Nardin, Patrizia Pelgrift, Dyanna Pooley, Karen Rambharose, Jennifer Rosati, Stephen Russell, Sumaya Villanueva

I. Dean's Announcements—Interim Dean Andrew Sidman

None.

II. Approval of the minutes of April 11, 2025

There was no discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of April 11, 2025. The minutes were approved unanimously with 16 votes in favor.

III. Old Business

1 None.

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3 **IV. New Business**

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5 **A. Program Review / Programs Subcommittee**

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7 **i. Program Review**

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9 **1. Self-Study for the BS in Toxicology**

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11 Dean Katherine Killoran introduced Professor Shu-Yuan Cheng, who went over the self-study.
12 This program was created in 2016 at a time when there were only a dozen or so Toxicology
13 programs nation-wide. The program gives students a strong foundation in general sciences as
14 well as in toxicology itself. The program has also been revised in response to students' post-
15 graduation aspirations, e.g., bolstering the human anatomy and physiology sequence to align
16 with medical school requirements. Meanwhile, enrollment has steadily increased since the
17 program started, going from 14 students to nearly 70. Other metrics including graduation rate,
18 assessment, and faculty levels are strong, suggesting good overall program health.

19
20 Professor Jennifer Rosati, the Chair of the Science Department, commented that the toxicology
21 program complements well the other programs in the science department. Students are
22 becoming more aware of the program and so the expectation is that enrollment will grow
23 exponentially over the next assessment period. Dean Killoran mentioned that there are plans to
24 develop a toxicology minor over the next year, which will give students yet another option
25 within the science department.

26
27 Professor Stephen Russell asked about post-graduation outcomes, and also asked about how
28 the department has reckoned with the rapidly expanding program when it comes to providing
29 enough faculty and other resources to cover the increase in demand. Professor Cheng
30 responded to the first question, saying that after graduation students have proceeded on to a
31 variety of things such as graduate school, research, and pharmacy school. However, due to
32 post-pandemic funding cuts still affecting many areas, some students do take longer than
33 desired to find a path. Professor Angelique Corthals stressed the importance of faculty bridging
34 the connection between industry contacts and students so that students can start developing a
35 network prior to graduation.

Professor Rosati responded to the second question, saying that support comes from many sources. The forensic science major has matured and can thus help to support the up-and-coming toxicology program. Other resources coming from undergraduate research initiatives and programs like PRISM also help to supplement the budget.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the self-study for the program Toxicology BS. The motion was approved unanimously with 16 votes in favor.

B. General Education / Courses Subcommittee

i. New Courses

1. HIS 2XX (249) History of the Ancient Near East

Assistant Dean Wynne Ferdinand introduced this new course, which is a broad survey-type course that will replace the more warfare-specific and to-be-deactivated, HIS 252. Surviving evidence covering the transition of peoples from tribes up through empires will be discussed. The course content was changed enough that it was felt that a new course proposal was warranted instead of a course revision.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the new course HIS 2XX (249). The motion was approved unanimously with 18 votes in favor.

ii. Course Revisions

- 1. HIS 269 History of World Slavery (to 1650 CE)**
- 2. HIS 281 Imperialism in Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East**

These revisions are part of a strategy that will allow different faculty with different areas of expertise to teach these courses using case studies relevant to their specialties. For example, this will allow Professor Matthew Perry, who specializes in slavery in ancient Greece and Rome, and Professor Stephen Russell, who specializes in 19th-century America, to teach the same "History of Slavery" course.

A motion was made and seconded to consider the revisions to HIS 269 and HIS 281 as a slate. The motion was approved unanimously with 18 votes in favor.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate. The motion was approved unanimously with 18 votes in favor.

3. PHI 202 Philosophical Visions of American Pluralism

Professor Sergio Gallegos explained that the title and description of this course were being simplified to make clear that concepts of pluralism throughout the Americas influence, and are influenced, by each other.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the revision to PHI 202. The motion was approved unanimously with 17 votes in favor.

4. SOC 201 Urban Sociology

Dean Killoran introduced this revision and said that it is a continuation of the sociology department's recent push to update the terminology of their course titles and descriptions.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the revision to SOC 201. The motion was approved unanimously with 17 votes in favor.

5. SOC 314 Theories of Social Order

This course is the main theory course taken by criminology majors, and this revision aims to further focus on criminological rather than more general sociological concepts to better prepare criminology students for their senior seminar course. Professor Marisa Tramontano further explained that the conclusion drawn from departmental discussions was that criminology students get a sufficient amount of sociological theory out of the intro courses, so it won't be detrimental to shift the focus of this course to be purely about criminology theory. The title of the course and course description are being revised to reflect the new focus of the course.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the revision to SOC 314. The motion was approved unanimously with 18 votes in favor.

6. CSCI 379 Computer Networking

1 Professor Jennifer Holst explained that students aren't quite coming in with the necessary
2 understanding of the different numeric systems encountered in CSCI 379. By adding MAT 204
3 Discrete Math as a prerequisite, students will be better prepared to engage with the material of
4 this course.

5
6 **A motion was made and seconded to approve the revision to CSCI 379. The motion was**
7 **approved unanimously with 18 votes in favor.**

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9 **V. Other Business**

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11 **A. General Education Updates: - Dean Wynne Ferdinand**

12
13 Dean Ferdinand reported that the Gen Ed Assessment Committee is finalizing round two of the
14 writing assessment report, and has also started up a quantitative reasoning advisory group.
15 There will be a series of seminars in June related to these initiatives. The first seminar will be
16 dedicated to the development writing assignments for Flexible Core and Major Gateway
17 courses that will then be piloted in the fall. The second seminar will be for the development of
18 quantitative reasoning assignments. The final seminar will feature active learning assignment
19 development as part of the Open Education Resources (OER) project. A proposed list of
20 Quantitative Reasoning learning objectives developed by a faculty advisory group was
21 shared. Wynne Ferdinand asked that UCASC representatives share the outcomes draft for
22 feedback with their departments.

23
24 **B. Other**

25
26 Dean Killoran shared next year's tentative UCASC calendar. Interim Dean Sidman then thanked
27 everyone for the year's work.

28
29 The meeting concluded at 10:58 AM.

30
31 Submitted by,
32 Alexander Bolesta, scribe

Undergraduate Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee Subcommittees

Academic Standards

Reviews proposals for new and revisions to existing academic standards and policies such as graduation requirements, grading, course limits, attendance, incompletes, etc.

Programs (New and Revised) and Program Review

Reviews proposals for revisions of existing majors, minors and certificate programs. Reviews program proposals for new majors. Reviews proposals for new minors and programs.

Every five years existing majors and certificate programs are required undergo an academic program review (do a self-study and undergo an examination by outside evaluators). This subcommittee reviews the self-study document and gives feedback.

Courses (New and Revised) and General Education

Reviews proposals for new courses and revisions of existing courses. Responsible for the forms for submission of each of these items. This subcommittee also vets course proposals submitted to become part of our Gen Ed program to ensure that they align with General Education learning outcomes.

In addition, this subcommittee reviews the results of the Gen Ed assessments from the prior year, makes recommendations to facilitate improvement, and assists in the planning for current year assessment activities. Working in conjunction with the Assistant Dean of General Education and Educational Partnerships, it considers improvements to the Gen Ed program as a whole and initiatives to address student success.