

CLOSING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND THEATRE ARTS

WHEREAS, John Jay College determined in 2014 not to hire new faculty into the Communication and Theatre Arts Department, and to phase the department out in order to invest resources in other areas of the college

WHEREAS the learning outcomes of courses offered by the Communication and Theatre Arts Department are embedded throughout the curriculum at the college and therefore student education will not be compromised

WHEREAS, the John Jay Charter (Section I. Departments) states, with two exceptions not relevant here, that “in order to exist as a departmental entity, a discipline is required to have a minimum of seven (7) full-time members of the faculty”

WHEREAS, as of spring 2023 Communication and Theatre Arts has five (5) full-time members

WHEREAS, there have been substantial discussions with, and agreement among, the faculty, that their status as faculty with tenure or a Certificate of Continuous Employment remains

RESOLVED, that:

the Lecturer Elton Beckett be transferred to the Africana Studies Department, Associate Professor Gregory Donaldson and Assistant Professor Sandra Lanzone be transferred to the English Department, and Assistant Professor Marsha Clowers and Associate Professor Maria Rodriguez be transferred to the Counseling and Human Services Department;

adjunct appointments in the department set to expire at the end of Spring 2023 be allowed to expire, without reappointment;

adjunct appointments in the department set to expire later than the end of Spring 2023 be discontinued pursuant to the provisions in CUNY Policy 5.19 and New York State Education Law § 6212.8 pertaining to the abolishing of positions and departments;

the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts be dissolved effective August 23, 2023.

EXPLANATION: In 2014 Provost Jane Bowers declared an attrition plan of three academic departments: Communication and Theatre Arts, Counseling, and Physical Education. Each department was notified that there would be no future hiring in the department and the department would eventually be closed. Though Counseling worked with two other departments to create a new major and has been reconstituted, the Physical Education Department was dissolved in 2019 after its faculty retired. With a small number of remaining faculty in Communication and Theatre Arts, and some faculty expressing interest in working from other departments, the College determined that it was the right time to dissolve the department as a formal entity because it would be minimally disruptive to faculty and students. There are about twenty students currently minoring in Theatre Arts and they have received Academic Advising that allows them to complete those minors.