

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

September 12, 2022

Dear Academic Affairs Colleagues,

I write to give you an update on the new leadership of Academic Affairs and their responsibilities. Throughout the fall I will continue to send a biweekly update on what is happening in Academic Affairs with the goal of transparency and keeping everyone informed during this transition period. At the bottom of this email we have a short set of FAQs to questions we know you have. Please continue to share your questions with us at [this link](#) so we can answer them. But first, a short digression.

One of the things I think many of us at John Jay share is an appreciation for the college as “the little engine that could.” In the 1920 story, a stranded train is unable to find an engine willing to take it over a high mountain; only a little engine is willing to try while repeating the phrase, “I think I can.” Like the success of John Jay, the story demonstrates a remarkable feat of willingness and fortitude over resources. One of the things that inspires me about John Jay faculty and staff is our willingness to keep finding ways to help our students succeed, especially and because we know our public, urban college is under-resourced.

For this reason, one of my favorite data points is the [gap in actual and predicted graduation rates of our freshmen as compared with others across CUNY](#) (A6:59): based on their socio-economic characteristics and academic preparation, our students outperform the expectations for them every year. Each one of us contributes to this success.

My hope is that you will find the same success with the leadership of Academic Affairs. More than structure, people make a difference. This extraordinary group is only two weeks in, but they are already starting to make a difference, reviewing operations, optimizing resources, and collaborating to fill gaps in services. This is a team committed to making sure our students succeed and that the College fulfills its promise as a place that advances justice and knowledge.

To acquaint you with new faces and roles, we will hold a series of Open Zoom hours to “Meet the Deans,” ask questions and share your ideas. Our first Open Zoom will be tomorrow, Tuesday September 13, during Community Hour, from 1:40-2:45 pm. This week’s open zoom will include:

OPEN ZOOM – MEET THE DEANS

Tuesday, September 13, 1:40 pm – 2:45 pm



Kim Chandler
Associate Provost for Strategy
and Operations



Janice Johnson Dias
Dean of Student Academic
Engagement and Retention



Andrew Sidman
Dean of Academic Programs

Please Click this link to join this Open Zoom:

<https://jjay-cuny.zoom.us/j/81786699262?pwd=Z2piWVRPWHLzckY0QVhZVGM0UTdvdz09>

Meeting ID: 817 8669 9262

Passcode: 031303

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Did you eliminate graduate studies? What happens to our graduate programs?

No. Our graduate programs are an essential part of John Jay and we are committed to supporting both the faculty program directors who administer the programs and the students in those programs. Program Directors now work with Dean Andrew Sidman in Academic Programs to develop curriculum, policies and standards. Students in graduate programs are now supported by Dean Janice Johnson Dias in Student Academic Engagement and Retention for advising, career, and learning support outside of what programs provide. And career and post-graduate cohorts are now supported by our Student Professional Advancement area led by Dean Anthony Carpi.

Q. To Whom do the Major Advisors and Coordinators report?

Dean Johnson Dias chairs the Council of Program Major and Minor Coordinators, and Dean Sidman attends these meetings as well. The goals of all major and minor coordinators is student engagement and retention – the key goals of this division.

Q. To whom do the Department Chairs report? Where can Chairs get their questions answered?

The chairs report to the Provost, who issues their annual evaluations. When Chairs have questions they can turn to Dean of Faculty Angela Crossman for all personnel and hiring questions, Associate Provost Kim Chandler for all workload, payment, and space concerns, Dean Sidman for all scheduling or curricular concerns, Dean Anthony Carpi for all research, grant, travel money questions, Dean Johnson Dias for all advising, career center, or cohort program concerns, or Associate Provost Nancy Velazquez-Torres for all data inquiries.

Q. What is Student Professional Advancement and how is it different from the Center for Career and Professional Development?

Student Professional Advancement (SPA) and the Center for Career and Professional Development (CCPD) share the same goal: to support students' post-graduate career success. We have created SPA to enhance support for the growing number of programs, funded through public and private grants, that provide dedicated funding and advisory support for cohorts of students in professionalizing experiences such as the CUNY 2X Tech and Pipeline Residency Program focused on career readiness in tech through paid internships; the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program which prepares low-income, first-generation students to pursue graduate study; or the NYPD Executive Leadership Program designed to prepare masters students in Law & Police Science for leadership positions in their division. The CCPD, in contrast, serves all John Jay students with career advising, job search assistance, resume and cover letter review, graduate school planning, job & internship fairs, and a series of workshops advising students on how to prepare for get jobs and enter professional life. The two units will be collaborating together closely.

Q. We haven't had a Dean of Faculty before. What does a Dean of Faculty do?

Dean of Faculty Angela Crossman will oversee the hiring and support of full- and part-time faculty at the college. She will facilitate mentoring opportunities, professional development opportunities, connect faculty to resources, and ensure the integrity of the personnel process. The Dean of Faculty oversees complaints about and between faculty, and works with the Provost, HR and the Labor Designee to resolve issues, as well as providing support, training and resources for

Department Chairs. Soon there will be an adjunct specialist in the Faculty Services office she oversees, who will help onboard all adjunct faculty, hopefully making that a smoother process for all. In addition, she provides support for and oversees the Teaching and Learning Center.

Allison Pease
Interim Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs



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