

UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020

I. The minutes of the December 3, 2019 minutes were approved.

II. Report of the Speaker of the Faculty, George Giuliani

Prof. Giuliani convened the meeting and reported the following:

“Since becoming Speaker, I’ve had the opportunity to work very closely with Kathleen Wallace, Chair of the Chairs Caucus, Bill Caniano, Chair of the Senate Executive Committee, and Elisabeth Ploran, President of the AAUP. The 4 of us have now established leadership meetings, where we meet at least once a month to address any issues that have arisen or need to be addressed. So, if you ever have any questions, comments or concerns pertaining to faculty-related issues, please do not hesitate to email or call me, and I can put them on the agenda for when our leadership team meets.

I also meet monthly with Provost Berliner and at least once a semester with President Rabinowitz, so, same comments as before—If you have anything of a faculty concern that you would like me to bring to the President’s or Provost’s attention, please reach out to me. There are two new committees that you should be aware of that have been formed this academic year. I am fortunate enough to sit as a member on both of them, as Speaker. They are the Council on Diversity & Inclusion and the Committee on Representation in Public Spaces

The Council on Diversity & Inclusion is chaired by Cornell Craig, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. The Council seeks to create a Strategic Plan on Diversity and Inclusion. On the way to the Strategic Plan, we will get a measurement of current diversity efforts and structures currently in place by academic departments and non-academic units. The areas of focus are all-encompassing, including:

- Campus Climate
- Student, faculty and overall employee diversity
- Curricular and Co-curricular engagement
- Institutional policy and practice
- Community partnerships

The Committee on Representation in Public Spaces was established by President Stuart Rabinowitz based on one of the major recommendations of the President's Task Force in Representation on Public Spaces. The committee is chaired by Dr. Margaret Abraham and Cornell Craig and prioritizes its work by with the following recommendations:

- Develop and make accessible contextual information to accompany specified works of art;
- Create a new speaker series: "The Past is Always Present.";
- Plan deliberative dialogue training on student-centered issues; and
- Explore the possibility of a new sculpture to increase diversity among the existing sculptures.

If you have any questions related to these committees, please let me know or reach out to Cornell Craig, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer.

I'd like to congratulate Dr. Andrea Libresco for being selected as this year's Distinguished Faculty Lecture speaker. I had the pleasure of serving on the review committee, where all proposals were quite impressive. Andrea's topic of *How Much Authentic Intellectual Work is Taking Place in Your Classes* is incredibly interesting. Her presentation argues for the importance of nurturing teachers and professors in a well-grounded conception of Authentic Intellectual Work as a basis for instructional decisions and will provide the Hofstra community with the tools to begin to assess their own instruction and, perhaps, to modify it. Dr. Libresco will be giving her lecture on March 25 from 11:15-12:40 on the 10th Floor of the Axinn Library. I hope you can attend this presentation. Congratulations again to Dr. Libresco

On February 4th and 5th, I had the opportunity to be a part of a program focusing on the students of the future. At this program, we were able to take a 360 degree view, noting more clearly where we are, what the immediate and not so immediate challenges are, who our students will likely be, and what their needs will be. Using simulations and storytelling experiences, this program sharpened our understanding of what is and what will be. After attending this program along with Bill, Kathleen, and Elisabeth, we felt it would be a great idea to meet with the Provost to see how we could potentially implement this into a faculty meeting, workshop or program in the future. The 4 of us are meeting with Provost Berliner this week to brainstorm about this idea.

As a reminder, the Provost's Office is once again pleased to offer an opportunity for a faculty member to pursue his or her research interests for a period of one week at Harris Manchester College in the University of Oxford and to meet other academics from a variety of disciplines and cultures. In addition to the room and board provided by this membership, Hofstra University will supply a round-trip air ticket. The Institute will host the visiting scholar this year for his or her arrival on Sunday, June 28 and departure on Sunday, July 5. If you would benefit from a week in this Summer Research Institute, please submit a proposal including how this fits with your current research. Please submit your application and current C.V. via email to Senior Vice Provost Margaret Abraham by March 6 and cc it to Joyce Pizaro, Coordinator for Academic Budget & Planning.

As you may be aware from an email sent on February 10 to all Hofstra faculty, the University Senate passed a resolution to begin a pilot of an online Course and Teacher Rating system. The Provost's office is asking for volunteers to use the online CTR system for one of your course sections at the end of the current term, Spring 2020. If you are interested in participating in this pilot program, please contact Amy Filadelfo no later than February 28.

Thank you to those faculty who participated in the Fall 2019 Mid Semester Advisory campaign. According to the Provost's Office, with your help, 84% of mid semester advisories were completed—the highest completion rate since 2017. Your feedback to students has resulted in higher term GPAs and fewer D/ F/ and W grades for those who were indicated to be at risk for failing. Nine percent of advisories submitted for the Fall 2019 semester were “at-risk” advisories. These notifications are extremely helpful in our ability to help students improve their course status. The mid-semester advisory link for instructors of undergraduate students was made available to you on February 18 through email notification. Please issue

Mid Semester Advisories for undergraduate students in your classes by March 13 (the seventh week of the semester).

Finally, as we learned on January 28, President Stuart Rabinowitz has notified the Hofstra University Board of Trustees that he will be retiring from the Presidency of Hofstra at the conclusion of his term on August 31, 2021. The Board of Trustees will immediately begin planning the process for selecting a successor. The question I have been asked more than any other as Speaker over the past few weeks is what the process and timeline will be for establishing committees, interviewing and selecting both a new Provost and President. Rather than paraphrase what I know, I've asked Provost Berliner to speak to us for a few minutes regarding the future President and Provost searches."

III. Update on President and Provost Searches, Provost Herman A. Berliner

Provost Berliner reported the following:

- It is the Board of Trustees that have the responsibility to elect Hofstra's President. There is also a group that establishes the process for the search. Some of these discussions on the part of the trustees are underway already, even before their next scheduled Board of Trustees meeting which takes place tomorrow. Don Schaffer, chair of the Board of Trustees, will head the search. He has assured the Provost that the process will involve an opportunity for all current constituencies to participate and that the board will be providing details shortly.
- We are fortunate in terms of the timing of President Rabinowitz's announcement that we have ample time for a deliberative thorough process to get the best person possible as our next president. Chairperson Schaffer has indicated that he expects the process to start with members of the search committee meeting this semester with faculty, students, administrators, staff and alumni to gather input on what we should be looking for in our next president. Other than this still preliminary information, no specifics have been set. The selection of an executive search firm needs to happen as soon as possible and the process will then begin immediately thereafter, most likely sometime next month. The goal will be to complete the search before the end of the fall semester.
- From preliminary contact with major search firms, all believe the Hofstra's national reputation and momentum will lead to a very impressive candidate pool. The firms are especially impressed with the accomplishments of the last 20 years.
- He has been asked by President Rabinowitz to continue serving as provost until the end of his term as president, which is August 31, 2021. However, to assure continuity in the provost position, the president will name an acting provost early in the spring 2021 semester and he will work that person to that they are ready to support the new president from day one. The new president will then oversee the search for permanent Provost.
- President Rabinowitz will be pursuing a very active agenda for the university throughout the remaining one and a half years of his presidency.
- There will be a major announcement tomorrow. It is important in this competitive time for momentum to continue on diminish.

IV. Report of the Senate, William Caniano

Prof. Caniano reported that last semester, the University Senate made available free coffee for the students in Axinn Library for their studying needs in their last day of finals.

In collaboration with the Student Government Association (SGA), the Student Affairs Committee and the Library subcommittee of the Planning and Budget Committee arranged for Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations, to find funding to renovate the study spaces on the fourth floor of Axinn Library.

V. Report of the AAUP, Elisabeth Ploran

Prof. Ploran reported that the next union meeting is on March 11 at 11:15 a.m. (during Common Hour) in Breslin Hall, room 209. Nominations are currently open for the positions of

- President
- Second Vice President for Collective Bargaining
- one Steering Committee member
- all unit representative seats

All unit representatives are trained by the Vice President of Grievances, Martine Hackett, to serve as effectively Shop Stewards. Now, faculty can go to their unit representative first, which should cut down on some of the daily traffic. If needed, the question will get redirected to Prof. Hackett or Prof Ploran.

Prof. Ploran reminded the faculty that if they are asked to go into they have a legal protective right to have an AAUP representative present at any meeting with administration.

VI. New Business

There was no new business

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m.