

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, November 6, 2017

Present: D. Balson, W. Caniano, G. Giuliani (Chair), D. Goodman, E. Maccarrone, C. Ramirez, T. Shapiro

Absent: G. Simmons,

A. Amendments were made to the October 2, 2017 minutes. The minutes passed as amended.

B. Chair's Report

There was no chair's report.

C. Action Item

Caroline Schreiner reported that the Special Committee on Recruitment, Elections and Nominations (SCREAN) is in need of representation from the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) and the Student Affairs Committee (SAC). Donna Balson agreed to represent the SEC and Carissa Ramirez will reach out to her committee members for a representative. The SEC approved the appointment.

D. Discussion Item

Prof. Giuliani presented for discussion, a report from the Ad-hoc Committee to Develop Academic Calendar Religious Observance Policy. Prof. Giuliani reported that when the university switched to the new academic calendar, it was suggested that there should be something in place in terms of a policy, since students and faculty from time to time may miss class due to religious observances. The committee created language that can be posted online and in the bulletin regarding the Religious Observance Policy. Prof. Giuliani reported that the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, Faculty Affairs Committee, and Student Affairs Committee should all look at this report at their next meeting, and discuss and either approve the policy or bring feedback to the SEC by the February 5 meeting. A discussion followed.

E. New Business

There was no new business.

F. Committee Reports

1. William Caniano, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee met on October 3. A question was raised by Prof. Ghorayeb to Rich Apollo, Associate Provost for Budget and Planning about compensation for teaching overload. He also requested more monetary support for faculty going to conferences and for professional memberships. Provost Apollo reported this may be an issue to bring up with his dean, and not the Provost's Office. Prof. Caniano reported that the committee also dealt with a proposal that came to the Planning and Budget Committee from the Academic Computing Committee. He forwarded it to the Library Subcommittee, as it has to do with a library-related purchase. The Library Committee then sent it back to the Planning and Budget Committee who forwarded it to the Provost's Office. The next Planning and Budget Committee meeting is on December 4.

2. Debra Goodman, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee met last Monday. The committee discussed the idea of advanced certificates and badges for graduate programs. There was a discussion on developing cross program types of advanced certificates and program development improvement. Badges involve two to three courses and focus on a skill area such as web design. Hofstra does not currently have badges, so this is something in the development stages. Prof. Goodman reported that the committee also discussed graduate admission numbers which are down for next year in terms of applications and yield. They also discussed the problems with international student numbers. Prof. Goodman reported that the committee also discussed the 5-year program. One barrier for 5-year programs is that NYSED is favoring “true” 5-year programs (such as Hofstra’s Physician Assistant Program) where all degrees and certifications are earned at the end of both programs. The state wants to only award the degrees and certificates at the end of the 5 years, which doesn’t really work for the students. There was discussion of increasing doctoral programs, as they are continuing to do well. The next Graduate Academic Affairs Committee is on November 27.
3. Marc Silver, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee continue to discuss the status of UNIV 001 and may have a couple of possible resolutions, one being eliminating the requirement in the bulletin. There was a concern that while the current program of UNIV 001 doesn’t seem to do anything positive for at-risk students, and not providing adequate support. The committee is now considering a time-limited suspension of the administration of UNIV 001 for students on probation coupled with a proposal that the appropriate offices: the Center for Academic Excellence in conjunction with the Center for University Advising, and any other student oriented academic program devise a meaningful support remedial program for probationary students that would help improve their academic skills. Prof. Silver reported that the committee will get a report from Jessica Eads, Vice President for Enrollment Management, at their next meeting on November 13. A discussion followed.
4. Carissa Ramirez, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the senators are working on individual initiatives. This past week she met with a student who emailed the committee about a potential campus wide smoking ban. The committee, along with the Student Government Association (SGA) plans to administer a survey to which one of the questions will be about whether or not the student is in favor of a smoking ban at the entrance of the north side of campus from the Student Center.
5. Donna Balson, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee discussed revisions to Faculty Statutes X – creating a position of Deputy Speaker of the Faculty which will replace the Secretary to the Faculty, as well as revising the language which mentions the agenda committee. Prof. Balson reported that the committee started a discussion on converting the paper Course and Teacher Ratings (CTRs) to web based CTRs, as well as having a specific CTR for online courses. Prof. Balson reported that the committee will be having a discussion on how to set up peer observations for online courses.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.