MINUTES OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 5, 2018


A. The December 4, 2017 minutes were unanimously approved.

B. Action Items

1. Prof. Giuliani presented for action, the Repeat Course Policy.

   Prof. Goodman reported that the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee discussed the documents and different examples. They ultimately preferred the original proposal which was passed by the full faculty which was that the faculty had discretion over the case of the grade.

   Prof. Balson reported that the Faculty Affairs Committee were happy with the Provost’s revision. If the faculty member knows that it is going to be the consequence, and the faculty member already decides in the grade that they give in the case of academic dishonesty. The discretion of the faculty is there at the point where they deliver the grade. The committee also liked that there is language which makes clear that there will be no grade exception when there is an “F” in the course because of academic dishonesty. The Provost’s final version also takes out the ambiguity about whether it’s a grade on an assignment or a grade in a midterm, etc.

   Prof. Silver reported that the sentiment of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee has not changed and they prefer the original proposal, considering it reasonable given the variety of concerns that are in play. Having faculty buy into the process and report given the integrity of the faculty member’s decision about academic dishonesty if those faculty feel strongly that they might be pushed into giving an “F” grade to maintain the integrity of the grade given.

   Ms. Ramirez reported that the Student Affairs Committee prefers the original proposal, feeling that having a GPA not be replaced wasn’t fair to students. Professors could also take it as a learning opportunity and reform student’s behavior.

   Prof. Caniano reported that where it says “International/ nontraditional students need support; the Library faculty will support anybody and are in the process of designing a strategic plan to outreach to those groups to get information literacy on their agenda.

   Provost Simmons reported that she still feels the situation where a faculty member not only assigns a grade, but then makes an auxiliary decision about the future fate of the student, opens us to a great deal of inequity in how this policy would be exercised. Some professors will be very hardnosed about this and think even though the consequence was that a student got an “F” on an assignment, they are not going to allow the student to replace their grade. Another professor in another section of the same course with a very similar circumstance could be more lenient. The end result is that two students will be in
two very different situations, and it’s the professor’s authority then extends beyond the grade in their course.

A discussion followed.

Prof. Giuliani proposes that they pass the original proposal, with the idea that the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee in Fall of 2019 look at any complaints or concerns regarding inequity.

More discussion followed and it was decided to table the item for the Provost’s Office to review.

C. Information Items

2. Prof. Giuliani presented for information, Senate absences. Prof. Balson reported that she has three faculty members that do not attend her meetings regularly, one of which has not attended any Senate meetings in over a year. According to Faculty Statute VII:

*If an elected senator misses three meetings in one academic year of the Senate or of the committee to which the senator was assigned, the Senate Executive Committee has the right to declare that seat vacant and to appoint the individual receiving the next highest number of votes in the Senator's election, or, if that person is not available, to appoint another person from the same constituency to complete the senator's term.*

Prof. Balson also discussed the open declaration by one member of her committee, both in emails and in the last FAC meeting, to be absent from all meetings in opposition to having not only any adjunct as Chair, but “this adjunct in particular”. She feels that this is an attempt to undermine her Chairship and to discourage her and other adjuncts from standing for election. She wanted this situation to be aired in order to raise awareness of the underlying discrimination and exclusion often experienced by adjuncts in their treatment by tenured colleagues. Prof. Balson is concerned that the negative feeling, albeit only voiced by one colleague at this time, towards adjuncts in positions of trust will outlast her tenure as Chair and will make it more difficult for other adjuncts in the future. A discussion followed on both issues. Provost Simmons commented that it will be made clear at the next elections that all senators are eligible for election to committee chairs.

A discussion followed. Prof. Giuliani will ask Caroline Schreiner to provide a list of all people who have missed three or more Senate meetings and this item will be discussed at the next Senate Executive Committee meeting.

D. New Business

Prof. Silver reported that he was forwarded a memo from his chair concerning a memo from Steven Costenoble, Senior Associate Dean for Budget and Planning, about the changes in CV Starr work stations, specifically Virtual Desktop. Terri Shapiro, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, reported that Dean Costenoble was supposed to wait to complete a more detailed memo with more information in it. Some of the information he sent out is misleading and she sent out another memo detailing what Virtual Desktop is and what it will
do. Prof. Silver asked if there has been extensive faculty consultation and input into this decision, and is this conversion of CV Starr the first step in something that will be across the board at the university?

E. Action Items (continued)

1. Prof. Giuliani presented for action, revisions to UNIV001. Prof. Silver reported that the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee has been working on the lack of effectiveness of UNIV001, the course students take when put on academic probation, for quite some time. The proposal is to end the administration of UNIV001 and instead students will be required to establish an action plan with consultation with their general Advisement Dean. Such an action plan may include such requirements as regular meetings with their major advisor and Advisement Dean, as well as availing themselves of tutoring services, and appropriate support services available through the Center for Academic Excellence. The action plan is to be individualized for each student. The item passed unanimously. If the item is passed by the Full Senate on March 12, it will not be presented to the full faculty on March 13.

The rest of the agenda was tabled.

F. Committee Reports

1. William Caniano, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee has not met. They will meet on Friday, March 16.

2. Debra Goodman, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee met on February 27. They discussed the repeat course policy for cases of academic dishonesty. This discussion was summarized in a report to the SEC and part of the earlier discussion. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of Accelerated Programs focused on a draft of bulletin copy provided by Provost Brinkmann. Accelerated Programs are undergraduate/graduate programs that develop a common plan of study, allowing qualified students to take some graduate coursework during undergraduate and complete an accelerated master’s degree. This is an in-house designation where existing programs develop an advisement path to support students in earning an accelerated master’s degree related to their undergraduate degree. Prior to the meeting, the GAAC collected information and input from program directors and deans regarding accelerated program requirements. During the meeting, the committee worked with Bob Brinkmann and completed revisions for the bulletin copy. The bulletin copy should be on-line soon.

3. Marc Silver, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee met on 2/26. It reviewed its position on the ad hoc committee on religious observance report and the grade exception provision in relation to academic dishonesty. The committee was also given an update and confirmed its position on UNIV001. There were no other action items on the agenda.

4. Carissa Ramirez, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee - SAC had a successful event the week before on February 28th that gave students the
chance to voice their concerns and questions directly to public safety. It took place after a year of planning and collaboration with Public Safety, SGA, and SAC.

Senator Pak Ho Wong is continuing work on his initiative to inform students about the mental health services offered. He has an event planned to take place in the beginning of April.

She also reported that she has been moving forward with the process to extend the smoking ban to the North (Residential) side of campus outside of the entrance to the Student Center. I plan to talk to Karen O'Callahan with Public Safety to discuss the possibility of this.

5. Donna Balson, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee has discussed the creation of an Associate Speaker role. They have a recommendation which will be presented at the next SEC meeting. The committee discussed attendance requirements for committee members, and the language for the Repeat Course Policy.

The matters of Adjunct Teacher of the Year, the pilot program for an electronic delivery system for CTRs, and peer evaluations for online courses were tabled due to lack of time, but will be prioritized at the next meeting.

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