

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, September 4, 2019

Present: M. Abraham, H. Berliner, C. Burnett, W. Caniano, C. Eliot, P. Fritz, D. Harb, R. Hirsch, T. Shapiro

The April 29, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.

A. Chair's Report

Prof. Caniano convened the meeting by reporting that academic calendar has been mildly updated and revised. The standing committees should all look is and report back to the Senate Executive Committee by the October meeting. Dr. Berliner reported that classrooms are no longer in sync in terms of starting and stopping times, so there was a substantial overlap which renders a classroom not usable for the next period and makes it very inconvenient for students. Common Hour was also moved to later in the day and left at the same length. A discussion followed. Caroline will distribute the calendar to all chairs to share with their committees.

Prof. Caniano reported that he would like the Student Affairs Committee to explore the possibility in creating a subcommittee of the Senate for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, which circulates under Rick Cole Jr., Director of Athletics, and Rachelle Fabre, Assistant Director of Athletics/Student-Athlete Services, and populated by student athletes. A discussion followed and it was decided to perhaps have a member of this committee sit on the Student Affairs Committee as a Senator At-Large and continue outreach to other student groups to delegate a member to join the Student Affairs Committee.

Prof. Caniano reported that he would like the Faculty Affairs Committee to revisit the issue of creating a Deputy Speaker of the Faculty position in place of the Secretary of the Faculty. This role will provide a backup for the Speaker of the Faculty. Caroline Schreiner explained that the Secretary of the Faculty is one of the Faculty Officers cited in Faculty Statute IX, and the role of the position, aside from stepping in for the Speaker of the Faculty (should the Speaker of the Faculty step down) is to create and circulate the agenda and minutes to the faculty, which she already does. Prof. Caniano suggests giving the new deputy position more of a faculty outreach position, retention initiatives, and allowing for course release time. A discussion followed.

Prof. Caniano reported that back in 2015, UNIV001, a required online course that students placed on academic probation must take, was discontinued. He would like a follow up.

Prof. Caniano reported that he would like the Planning and Budget Committee investigate Living-Learning Communities and what impact it could have on student recruitment and retention. Students who choose a living-learning community reside together and enjoy class-based activities and events as well as interaction with faculty outside the classroom within their community. Dr. Berliner suggested getting the deans involved in the discussion. Prof. Caniano reported that he has been in contact with Kristin Weingartner, Associate Dean for First-Year Programs.

B. Action Items

Prof. Caniano presented for action, the CTR Pilot Program Assessment Rubric Final. Prof. Hirsch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that this was present for information at the last Senate meeting and is ready to be voted on. The following amendments were made:

Paired sample t-tests to test differences between pilot scores and previous CTR scores (on subscale scores/mean/variance)

Chi-square of difference in percentage of students that completed it (from pilot to past semesters)

was amended to:

Test differences between pilot scores and previous CTR scores (on subscale scores/mean/variance)

Test differences in proportion of students that completed it (from pilot to past semesters)

The item passed as amended.

C. Discussion Items

1. Caroline Schreiner gave the Senate Executive Committee the following updates:
 - there are two vacant spots on the Senate for School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.
 - she will reach out to Dean Rifkin
 - Christopher Dippel has been sitting on the Student Affairs Committee for four years and has requested to join another committee, since the faculty members on the Student Affairs Committee aren't as active as the students.
 - Prof. Caniano will serve the committee in his place
 - Prof. Dippel was reassigned to the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee
 - Paul Fritz reported that he is stepping down as chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee and will help schedule the first meeting so the committee can elect a new committee.
 - will announce at the Senate meeting to see if someone steps in
2. Caroline Schreiner reported that the Student Affairs Committee does not have many active members due to a light turnout during the election process in the spring. She has been working with David Harb, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, to reach out to the entire student body via email, and scheduled an information session on October 9, during common hour, in the Plaza Rooms. A discussion followed on student outreach.

D. New Business

Prof. Hirsch reported that a question came up about whether or not students can have a representative with them when meeting with administration similar to Weingarten Rights which guarantee an employee the right to Union representation during an investigatory interview. Mr. Harb mentioned having an ombudsman, an official appointed to investigate individuals' complaints. A discussion followed on student's rights and how to publicize and popularize resources available to them.

E. Committee Reports

1. Paul Fritz, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee started discussing review the mid-semester advisory. He will reach out to W. Houston Dougharty, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Jean Peden-Christodoulou, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs to help the new chair on this issue. Dr. Berliner suggested announcing at the first full faculty meeting that due to a change in leadership of the committee, the review may not be presented in the timely matter we had hoped, but it will be forthcoming.
2. Rina Hirsch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee will be reviewing Faculty Statute VII to include the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer as an ex-officio member. The committee will discuss Course and Teacher Ratings (CTRs) for online and hybrid courses, and potentially adding CTR criteria that evaluates diversity initiatives in the curriculum, and/or support for inclusive classroom environment. The committee will also investigate creating the Deputy Speaker position previously mentioned. There is potential for this person to sit on the Chairs' Caucus as a liaison, attend union and deans' meetings and report back, etc.as well as chair the Special Committee on Recruitment, Elections and Nominations (SCREAN), as well as an ex-officio member of the Senate Executive Committee, etc. The committee will also look into having photos attached to outlook emails, perhaps an "opt out" option.
3. David Harb, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that he has been speaking with Provost Berliner over the summer on initiatives the committee could focus on, as well as Gabrielle St. Leger, Dean of Students, about resources that are available to his committee to utilize. He is working on scheduling the committee's first meeting. Prof. Fritz mentioned that last year, the Student Affairs Committee expressed interest in reviewing the mid-semester advisory along with the UAAC. Caroline Schreiner reported that the UAAC has an elected student senator as a member of the committee who could possibly serve as a liaison.
4. Craig Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee he met over the summer with Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations, about the possibility of utilizing the university's empty houses for faculty. Dr. Berliner reported that they are available right now for new faculty, but we've never had a surplus. A discussion followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.