MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, FEBRUARY 13, 2017

THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Basile, Caniano, Chun, Curtiss, Dippel, Dougharty, Eads, Elks-Abuhoff, Filippi, Firestone, Ghorayeb, Giuliani, Goodman, Lopez, Maccarrone, Munoz, Persky, Pickering, Ramirez Shapiro, Simmons, Sorrentino, Wallace

Absent: Amalathas, Balson, Dumas, Fritz, Herold, Hoover, Mazzocco, Miller, Sample, Santangelo, Shepherd

Guests: Bass

The December 12, 2016 minutes were approved.

I. Report of the Provost, Provost Gail Simmons

Provost Simmons convened the meeting by reporting that there will be a reception for all of the HCLAS Dean candidates at 5p.m.on the 10th floor of Axinn Library.

The Provost reported on our reaccreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education:

- involves an over two-year process of putting together an institutional self-study and the commission will schedule a site visit to determine whether or not the self-study was fact.
- kick-off meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 15

The Provost reported that there are two task forces created for this spring in collaboration with faculty governance:

- task force on examining the schedule of classes
  - have been working with the Registrar to extract information from our current schedule
  - reaching out both to governance and to the deans for people to serve on the task force, particularly interested in people who have served or are currently as chairs, or who are Scheduling Officers in their departments
- task force on Course and Teacher Ratings (CTR)
  - came from the Faculty Affairs Committee, who have been deliberating problems with the current CTR structure for Distance Learning courses
  - it has been about 10 years since this CTR instrument and the way we administer it has been examined
The Provost reported that Hofstra University is going to participate in the New York City March for Science on April 22. Our theme is “A March for Science is a March for Knowledge.” A brief discussion followed.

The Provost reported that her office has launched a blog for Academic Affairs.

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Eugene Maccarrone

Prof. Maccarrone reported that revisions to the Repeat Course Policy, which was passed by the Full Faculty on November 28, but sent back to the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee by the Provost’s Office, was presented at the last Senate Executive Committee. The item was tabled pending further discussion, particularly with regard to first-year students, by the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee.

Prof. Maccarrone reported that he has asked the Planning and Budget Committee and the Student Affairs Committee to revisit the issue of a full campus smoking ban, but focusing on asking students that “if we have a full campus ban, how would we do it?” For example, implementing it five years from now, when most students presently on campus have all graduated. In the process, they will be researching how other schools who have full campus bans implement theirs.

Prof. Maccarrone reported that the President has approved both the 2017-2018 and the 2018-2019 Academic Calendars.

Prof. Maccarrone reported that two ad-hoc committees discussed at prior meetings will meet for the first time on Tuesday, February 28.

Prof. Maccarrone reported that at the last Board of Trustees meeting, the Treasurer reported:
- we received a clean opinion on our 2015-2016 financials
- the endowment is doing well
- financial health is evaluated as “good”
- a $500,000 in New York State Economic Development grant has been approved for a Behavioral Research Lab (will be used in the Frank G. Zarb School of Business building)
- Hofstra University approved as a "Start Up New York" site for behavioral research

Prof. Maccarrone reported that on February 1, a second informational meeting was held to discuss the mid-semester grade assessment policy.
Action Items
Prof. Maccarrone presented for action the appointment of Russell Chun, from the Lawrence Herbert School of Communication to replace Carlo Genneralli, who has stepped down from the Senate. The appointment passed. Prof. Chun will serve for the spring semester and until an election can be completed. On behalf of the Senate Executive Committee and the University Senate, Prof. Maccarrone thanks Prof. Genneralli for his service.

III. New Business
W. Houston Dougharty, Vice President for Student Affairs, asks that everyone encourages their students to take the Campus Climate Survey.

IV. Committee Reports
A. George Giuliani, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee reported that the committee met twice since the last Senate meeting. The majority of the time at the first time, the committee spent discussing the CTRs and forming a task force which was previously mentioned. The committee then met on January 6 to review and recommend Special Leave Applications. He also reported that Provost Simmons will be attending the committee’s first meeting to discuss a Teacher of the Year Award for adjunct professors and how we may want to move forward on this. The

B. Debra Goodman, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee completed its work on the issue of overlapping credits in graduate degrees if students received their first degree at Hofstra. She has been reaching out to the Deans for their input on the language. The issue should be presented at the next Senate meeting.

C. Bianca Pickering, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee met on February 6 to discuss the mid-semester grade policy which is being worked on in conjunction with the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee. The SAC will be focusing on feedback from students. The committee is also going to work with the Planning and Budget Committee on a budget allocation request they received, as well as how to bring about more food choices on campus such as halal.
D. Prof. Maccarrone reported for Paul Fritz, who is the interim chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee while Marc Silver is on leave. The committee will meet on February 27. Their agenda includes:

- bringing forward a proposal on departmental honors
- continuing to work on the mid-semester assessment issue
- reconsideration of the repeat course option as it relates to violations of academic honesty
- addressing Faculty Policy Series #10 so that it is consistent with the new contract
- investigation of UNIV 1 and its efficacy (this is a class all students on probation must pass to get off probation)

E. Prof. Caniano, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee reported that the committee will meet on February 27. Catherine Hennessey, Vice President for Financial Affairs and Treasurer, and Dolores Fredrich, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel will be in attendance to discuss the budget. He also reported that the Town Hall Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 1 at 10:30 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room of the Student Center. The main question and answer session with President Rabinowitz, Provost Simmons, and senior administration will take place during common hour.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m.