

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, OCTOBER 10, 2016
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Caniano, Curtiss, Dougharty, Dumas, Eads, Esteban, Firestone, Fritz, Gennarelli, Ghorayeb, Giuliani, Goodman, Hoover, Lopez, Maccarrone, Mazzocco, Persky, Pickering, Ramirez, Sample, Santangelo, Shapiro, Shepherd, Silver, Simmons, Sorrentino

Absent: Amalathas, Basile, Balson, Herold, Miller, Munoz, Wallace

Guests: Bass

The September 12, 2016 minutes were approved.

I. Report of the Provost, Provost Gail Simmons

Provost Simmons convened the meeting by updating the Senate on the Internationalization Lab:

- received good response from the faculty and administrative part of the community
- survey to students will be going out shortly
- reporting to the American Council on Education (ACE) about our progress to date on the lab project in November
- expect to have a site visit from the ACE in January, 2017
 - Visit scheduled early to receive input from site visitors before wrap of project

Provost Simmons reported on the Campus Climate Survey:

- moved forward with the working group on the climate survey over the summer
- have focus groups happening in the near future
 - will help to formulate the campus-wide survey
- hoping to send survey in the spring 2017 semester

Provost Simmons reported that the Office of Student Affairs, the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Enrollment Management have all been looking at a tool offered to us by the Education Advisory Board (EAB). It is a much more powerful and comprehensive information sharing effort. Jean Peden-Christodoulou, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, was involved in the “roll out” of this product at Stony Brook University, where it is widely used. More updates will follow. Provost Simmons reported that the month of September has been busy in terms of grant applications from faculty, possibly the highest month in history. Faculty submitted approximately nine million dollars’ worth of grant applications.

Provost Simmons thanked everyone who attended last week’s Faculty Wine and Cheese Reception and looks forward to making it a forum not only to honor the Teachers of the Year, but to introduce new faculty.

Provost Simmons reported that there have been a lot of ongoing faculty orientation sessions for new faculty that have been jointly run through the Provost’s Office with participation of the AAUP. These sessions are going well, with new faculty being highly engaged.

Provost Simmons reported that Faculty Research Day will be held on Wednesday, October 12, from 11:00am – 1:00pm, in the Student Center Plaza Rooms. This event had to be rescheduled from September due to the Debate. Since this Wednesday is a religious holiday, Neil Donahue, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, is creating a virtual site where faculty can submit electronic versions of their posters. Students will also be able to access the site and post questions.

Provost Simmons reported that her office is exploring an idea of “Study Away Partnerships.” They have identified a couple of partners of other United States’ institutions who have “unusual” programs. For example, Bob Brinkman, Vice Provost for Scholarship and Engagement, has been communicating to a school in New Mexico which has a unique program in the Geo Sciences based around their location. They are interested in sending some of their students to New York City and we have students interested in studying in New Mexico for a semester. The Provost Office is exploring this exchange to possibly be the model for other kinds of partnerships, with credits transferred between the two institutions.

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Eugene Maccarrone

Prof. Maccarrone reported that the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) met on Wednesday, October 5 and had on the agenda for action, the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 Academic Calendars, but needed to table them for more review. They will be brought back to the committee at its next meeting in November. The SEC approved the formation of two new ad-hoc committees to which members of the standing committees, as well as representatives from the Provost’s Office, (serving as a liaison with Legal Counsel), would participate:

- Ad-hoc committee to develop Academic Calendar Religious Observance Policy.
 - This committee should come up with language, to propose to the Senate, for the policy that is already in place, and monitor the implementation of the effectiveness of current year with the new calendar format.
- Ad-hoc committee to review and update Governance Documents (By-Laws, Faculty Statutes, and Faculty Policy Series).
 - Many documents may be outdated and therefore be reviewed by a committee and make suggestions to the appropriate committee. The committee will not be responsible for updating the documents; just recommend which policies or bylaws might need to be updated.
 - Caroline Schreiner, Senior Support Specialist to the University Senate, will co-chair this committee.

Caroline Schreiner gave a brief update on Senate membership:

- Debra Elkis-Abuhoff has been elected as a senator representing the School of Health Professions and Human Services and will remain on the Faculty Affairs Committee
- Paul Fritz has been elected as a senator representing the Kalikow School of Government, Public Policy & International Affairs and was appointed to the Student Affairs Committee
- Lisa Filippi has been elected as a senator for one-year, of William Nirode’s term, representing the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and will remain on the Faculty Affairs Committee. An election for the remaining one-year of his term will be held in the spring.
- There are still two vacant spots from the School of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts to which she will send out another call for nominations

III. New Business

There was no new business.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. George Giuliani, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee reported that the committee reviewed and approved revisions to Faculty Policy Series #36 - The Use of Human Subjects in Research. This should be coming to the Senate Executive Committee at its next meeting for review and approval.

The committee also spent some time discussing the current Course and Teacher Ratings (CTR) situation as it relates to distance learning. The committee reviewed each statement on the current CTRs and looked at what would be relevant for an online course as opposed to what would not be relevant. The committee then had a deeper conversation about the CTRs in general as to whether or not there needs to be an evaluation of them as a whole. The committee made a recommendation to the Provost's Office through Terri Shapiro, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, to set up a possible committee to establish a process to review the CTR instrument and procedures. Prof. Giuliani also reported that the committee unanimously approved a recommendation that the University establish a Teacher of the Year award for which adjunct faculty will be eligible. This recommendation was sent to the Provost's Office.

- B. Debra Goodman, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is still looking at cases of overlapping credits in graduate degrees if students received their first degree at Hofstra. Evan Koegl, Registrar and Director of Academic Records, reported that there is no real policy. The committee continues to gather information and is working on a policy for the bulletin.
- C. Bianca Pickering, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is still brainstorming different ideas but is focusing on improving Music Fest and is trying to build a relationship with Hofstra Concerts, who runs Music Fest. The committee is also discussing an issue with recycling on campus. Students are concerned that there are not enough recycling bins on the academic side of campus, and would like to reduce the use of plastic in the cafeterias. Caroline Schreiner reported that the Student Affairs Committee looked into this issue about six or seven years ago and will pull that information for the committee to look at. Ms. Pickering also reported that the committee will continue to work on their initiative of making the campus more inclusive, such as reaching out to the Transgender community and students who may suffer with issues with addiction. One idea that is being discussed is having a safe space for these students in residence halls.
- D. Marc Silver, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee passed revisions to the Repeat Course Policy which dealt with instances of academic dishonesty, and should be bringing it to the Senate Executive Committee at its next meeting. As it stands, the current language in the bulletin doesn't make it clear under what circumstances the Grade Point Average (GPA) exceptions would be allowed. It could be interpreted that any act of academic dishonesty that affects the grade means that the grade forgiveness policy is not available or it could mean that if the commission of the act lead to a significant impact on the grade. The committee is proposing that in severe cases where the penalty for committing an act of academic dishonest is the grade of "F." In all other instances of academic dishonesty for which the penalty was not the grade of F, it is at the instructor's discretion whether GPA exceptions will be permitted for that course. Prof. Silver also reported that the committee also discussed the long standing issue with Departmental Honors and the appearance on the transcript of whether students receive honors designation or not.
- E. Prof. Caniano, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee that the committee will meet next week, where Provost Simmons will give a presentation.

V. Adjournment

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