

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, OCTOBER 14, 2013
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Balson, Bass, Berliner, Bhogal, Davidow, Dresner, Eads, Elston, Filippi, Fincham, Finnegan, Flannery, Fritz, Gennarelli, Ghorayeb, Giuliani, Glasser, Goodman, Hoover, Lopez, Maccarrone, Sample, Schmelkin, Silver, Thomas, Yohn,

Absent: Angles, Espinal, Firestone, Johnson, Lucito, Yohn

Guests: Laggan, Nirode, Singh

After amending a plethora of typos, the minutes of the September 16th, 2013 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

I. Report of the Provost, Herman Berliner

Provost Berliner convened the meeting by reporting that the recruitment cycle for next year has already started with the first major event on campus held today. It was well attended by an enthusiastic group of potential students and their families and loved ones who are very interested in Hofstra University.

The Provost reported that the President has approved the revisions to the University Senate bylaws which will lead to more consultation and discussion between these committees and the Vice Presidents directly in charge of those key areas that relate to the work of those particular committees. He also reported that the President has also approved the Resolution on Informational Meetings with the Speaker of the Faculty, the chair of the Senate Executive Committee and the chair of the Chairs' Caucus on a regular basis. The first meeting of the academic year is scheduled on Thursday, October 17th. The President did not support the addition of a faculty member to the Board of Trustees. He did however approve added consultation following the American Governing Board (AGB) guidelines in terms of increasing cooperation and collaboration between the faculty and the trustees. A meeting has already been set for tomorrow between the chair of the Board of Trustees, the co-chairs of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, the Speaker of the Faculty, the chair of the Senate Executive Committee and the chair of the Chairs' Caucus. The last time such a meeting took place was back in the 1970s. The Provost reported that he believes that this will be the start of additional cooperation and collaboration.

Prof. Silver made a point of clarification that there is no mention on the resolution the President did not accept that mentions the voting rights for the faculty member on the Board of Trustees. Provost Berliner reported that there is already faculty representation on the Board of Trustees in terms of delegates and interpreted that the resolution was requesting voting representation.

Provost Berliner reported that university's Department of Drama and Dance will perform *Gypsy* from Friday, October 18 to Sunday, October 27 and encourages everyone to attend.

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Chairperson Stuart Bass

Prof. Bass reported that he, along with the Speaker of the Faculty have met with Karen O'Callaghan, Director of Public Safety, and Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations, regarding the effectiveness and elements of enforcing the smoking ban. Public Safety is aware of the issue, but under the impression that the university was still under a trial period and that the community will self-enforce. They do realize the seriousness and the extent of the violations taking place, particularly by the

Law School and at the entrance of Axinn Library on south campus. Public Safety has expressed that they want to avoid confrontation situations and are printing up cards that remind students there is no smoking on south campus, for members of the community to hand out when they see someone in violation of the ban. He reported that the administration has put more pressure on Public Safety to engage in more stringent enforcement and these conversations will continue to take place. Provost Berliner noted that he is not in favor of handing out cards and feels it is something that most faculty members will not do. It is more appropriate for Public Safety to hand out these cards, to call attention that this is a total smoking ban on south campus. A discussion followed on the smoking ban, a possible ban on north campus, and the possibility of designated smoking zones. Prof. Silver reported that he doesn't think a mechanism will work on north campus if one on south campus hasn't been consistent. Prof. Maccarrone suggested possibly enforcing a rule that students will not have access to classes and grades if they violate the ban unless they pursue reeducation regarding smoking. Senator Finnegan reported that during Student Government Association (SGA) elections the SGA had polling data and more students than not were in favor of the smoking ban. Prof. Bass reported that the Senate needs to recommend a clear cut definitive policy of enforcement or ask upon the administration to require Public Safety to hand out summons.

Prof. Bass reported that for years, the Planning and Budget Committee has been fostering the idea of more stringent traffic controls at the junction of California Avenue and Weller Hall, and is happy to report that Public Safety have addressed the issue and securing from the Town of Hempstead, a big traffic sign with flashing lights that says "pedestrian walkway." Prof. Maccarrone reported that he wants to re-populate the Parking Task Force to work on safety issues such as the speed limit down California Avenue. Provost Berliner reported that the Planning and Budget Committee should look into having a lower speed limit on California Avenue. A discussion followed.

Action Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for action the Environmental Priorities Committee Bylaws. This committee was created years ago as a task force and became a subcommittee of the Planning and Budget Committee. The committee has created its own bylaws. The following amendments were made:

The following section:

The members of the Committee shall:

- a. *Assess and act on environmental issues concerning the students, faculty, staff, of the campus. The Committee will also seek to make the campus a more sustainable place.*
- b. *Report to their respective areas recommendations and deliberations of the Committee.*

The Committee shall:

- a. *Elect its Chair from among its official faculty members;*
- b. *Review and make recommendations on all policy and planning needs concerning the environment and sustainability practices at Hofstra University to the Senate and faculty through the Planning and Budget Committee.*
- c. *Report EPC activities periodically to the Planning and Budget Committee.*

was changed to:

The Committee shall:

- a. *Elect its Chair from among its faculty members;*
- b. *Assess environmental issues concerning the students, faculty, and staff, of the campus. The Committee will also seek to make the campus a more sustainable place.*

- c. *Review and make recommendations on all policy and planning needs concerning the environment and sustainability practices at Hofstra University to the Senate and faculty through the Planning and Budget Committee.*
 - d. *Have its members report to their respective areas recommendations and deliberations of the Committee.*
2. Prof. Bass presented for action, revisions to Faculty Policy Series #47 which was broadened to include any employee in a supervisory role. A discussion followed and it was amended to insert a comma between *sexual relationships* and *or conduct*. Therefore the sentence shall be:
...shall engage in sexual relationships, or conduct that may reasonably be perceived as inviting or encouraging a sexual relationship,
 The item passed as amended.

Information Items

- 1. Prof. Bass presented for information the Diversity Information Item from the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, which was a report based on years of data collection through focus groups involving international students and minority students. The research was first collected with the intentions to create a faculty professional development series however, the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee concluded that there was not enough data to suggest the series and decided to present a summary of their data as an information item instead. This document will be added to the University Senate website.
- 2. Prof. Bass presented for information the revisions to Faculty Statute VII. This was language from the University Senate Representation item that was passed by the Senate and Full-Faculty in the 2012 fall semester. The language was just inserted into Faculty Statute VII, which defines the University Senate.

V. Committee Reports

A. Student Affairs Committee

Chairperson Finnegan reported that the committee has a fairly comprehensive agenda for the upcoming year. The committee is working on revisions to the Replacement ID Card policy. Chairperson Finnegan reported that he did some extensive research on other university policies and Hofstra’s fees for ID replacement are disproportionately higher. He will be meeting with Michael Martin Director of HofstraCard Services, later this week. The committee is also working with the Student Government Association to set up a series of public hearings to discuss the parking issue on campus and hope to have a resolution presented to the University Senate sometime in the near future. In addition, the committee is working on getting more student representation on various subcommittees. The Student Affairs Committee is also looking into polling data, that the Student Government Association has already pioneered, as an effort to more accurately hear the student voice. The committee will also reach out to the Facilities and Operations Department to discuss possible renovations to the Rathskellar as well as start discussions on the Town Hall meeting.

B. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Davidow reported that the committee spent their last meeting clarifying the Diversity Information item and will continue discussing ways to disseminate information about campus-related activities and policies to graduate students.

C. Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Fritz reported that the committee discussed course withdrawal policies and the difference between regular term withdrawal policies and short-course withdrawal policies, the latter which requires faculty signatures. A resolution will be brought to the University Senate fairly soon. The committee discussed the Two F's Policy where the current policy is that if a student fails the same course twice, the second F is not counted in the cumulative GPA. This means that under certain conditions, a student that fails the same course twice will have a higher cumulative (but not semester) GPA than a student that gets a non-F grade in the second iteration of the course if that non-F grade is lower than the student's average grade. The committee also discussed ways to strengthen language in Faculty Policy Series #10 that suggests faculty provide feedback to the student before the withdrawal date. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin reported that with more and more students working on double and triple majors, the chairs caucus has been discussing consistency issues among areas with courses that are double counted. She suggests that a discussion item for the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee is should there be a minimum number of credits that don't overlap.

D. Faculty Affairs Committee

Chairperson Giuliani reported that the committee is still working on the Evaluation of Chairs and hope to send to the Chairs' Caucus to review and offer feedback. The committee is also discussing adjunct representation on the Senate. The committee considered changing representation to one adjunct on the Senate per school but this posed problems of the composition of the Senate as a whole. He reported that in 1972, a "Light Blue Ribbon Committee" was formed to look explore various proposals to increase the effectiveness of the University Senate and Senate Committees. The Faculty Affairs Committee will discuss creating a new Light Blue Ribbon Committee to look at Senate composition and representation as a whole.

E. Planning & Budget Committee

Chairperson Maccarrone reported that the committee discussed reinvigorating and repopulating the Parking Task Force. He reported that Prof. Ghorayeb has informally contacted an adjunct professor in the Engineering Department who is willing to have students conduct a Senior Design project to help study our parking issues. Prof. Maccarrone also reported that he has reached out to the Catherine Hennessy, Vice President for Financial Affairs to discuss correspondence relating to the recent change to the Planning and Budget Committee by-laws. The Vice President Hennessy is just now concluding the university's year end closing with its financial statement auditing firm. He intends to meet with her in the very near future. The committee also discussed creating an Outcomes Assessments Task Force. Stephanie Bushey, Vice President for Institutional Research and Assessment, will help. Provost Berliner suggested contacting Terri Shapiro, Associate Provost for Accreditation and Outcomes Assessment.

IV. Adjournment

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The meeting was adjourned at 4:25p.m.