

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, OCTOBER 8, 2012
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Bass, Bhogal, Brown, Cordero-Rubinos, Crosson, Davidow, Elkis-Abuhoff, Finnegan, Flannery, Gennarelli, Gianarkis, Giuliani, Glasser, Johnson, Kamberova, Lopez, Papper B., Papper, C., Pillaipakkamnatt, Sample, Schmelkin, Silver, Venuti

Absent: Balson, Bergemann, Berliner, Eads, Firestone, Goodman, Liang

Guests: Bohannon, Jezina

After amending a typo, the minutes of the September 10, 2012 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

I. Report of the Provost, Liora Schmelkin, Senior Vice Provost.

Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin convened the meeting for Provost Berliner. She reported that the Day of Dialogue presented by the Center for Civic Engagement will be held on Wednesday, October 10th from 9am to 9pm. A list of sessions being offered is provided on the Center for Civic Engagement's website and she urges everyone to take a look, participate and recommend to students. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin reminded everyone that the Presidential Debate will be held next Tuesday, October 16th and that there will be no classes held that day. Faculty should encourage their students to attend the various events happening on campus and several simulcasts of the debate will be held.

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Chairperson Stuart Bass

Prof. Bass reported that he continues to have discussions and have pending appointments with Sandra Johnson, Vice President for Student Affairs, regarding the student budgetary appropriation process, as well as a pending appointment with Alan Kelly, Vice President of Development to further look into the possibility for funding certain scholarship or stipends for students in unique leadership positions here at the university.

Action Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for action a resolution for a Full Smoking Ban on the south campus. Prof. Bass prefaced the discussion by stating that two years ago, the Planning & Budget Committee engaged in an extensive and thorough investigation and researched some 25-30 major universities throughout the country that had, at the very least, a partial if not a full smoking ban on their entire campuses. The issue was tabled while the committee gathered more information to which the Planning and Budget Committee has thoroughly reviewed and passed the resolution being brought forward today. Elizabeth Venuti, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee reported that the restriction applies only to the south campus which is defined as south of Hempstead Turnpike. Sidewalks (California Avenue, Oak Street, Hempstead Turnpike, etc) are public property and do not apply. This item has been discussed for many years and the Planning and Budget Committee voted unanimously to pass the resolution.

An issue was raised that because there are classes held on both north and south sides of campus, why is there only a ban being placed on south campus. Prof. Venuti reported that it is not ruled out to have a full campus ban, but the committee decided to gradually introduce this ban first on the south

campus and then eventually the whole campus. Kenny Cordero-Rubinos reported that the Student Affairs Committee also voted for a full campus smoking ban after much discussion about the existing smoking buffer zone. The buildings are already so close together, there is very little room left for students to actually smoke in, therefore, south campus is essentially already a “no smoking” area. A full ban on south campus would be easier to enforce than the buffer zone, however the committee would like to see a designated smoking area created. Prof. Bass reported that there were a minority of reports with regard to campuses with full smoking bans that had designated smoking zone. He feels the resolution being voted on today should be a good start and then a discussion on whether or not to create a designated smoking area, as well as a discussion on making the ban campus-wide, can happen at a later date. Prof. Venuti reported that the reason why the committee restricted the ban to the south campus was because many students live on the north campus and it becomes a safety issue should students want to smoke at night. She also noted that since Nassau County has banned smoking in public places and buildings, then this seems like a good step for the university. The item was passed with 18 in favor of, and 5 opposed and 0 abstentions.

III. Committee Reports

A. Planning & Budget Committee

Chairperson Venuti reported that both the Library Committee and the Academic Computing Committee, both subcommittees of the Planning and Budget Committee, are administering surveys. The Library Committee is continuing to evaluate the status of the 5 year plan Library report created by the Planning and Budget Committee a few years ago and will be sending out a follow up survey on faculty needs with respect to library resources. This survey is still in the development phase. Prof. Venuti also reported that the Parking Task Force has not been meeting so the Planning and Budget Committee will try and invigorate them. The Planning and Budget Committee will also be discussing admissions and enrollments.

B. Faculty Affairs Committee

Chairperson Giuliani reported that the committee finished what they believed is a very strong working document for the Dean’s Evaluation which should be brought to the Senate by the next meeting. He reported that the committee has been having some conversation on how often should Deans be evaluated.

C. Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Lopez reported that at their last meeting, the committee discussed possible conflict of interest for students earning academic credit for significant student leadership which was discussed at the last Senate meeting. The committee has not yet come to a conclusion but has some language they are discussing via email between now and their next meeting.

D. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Davidow reported that the committee has been working on revisions to the graduate study bulletin in regard to basic regulations governing graduate programs as well as the unofficial withdrawal policy. In addition, they will be revising Faculty Policy Series #11G - (Procedures of Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Graduate Students at Hofstra University) making it congruent with the changes made to Faculty Policy Series #11 for undergraduates which was just revised and will be presented to the full faculty in October. The committee will also creating a

document about recommendations to pursue a professional development series for faculty to promote competency and sensitivity to issues of diversity.

E. Student Affairs Committee

Chairperson Cordero-Rubinos reported that the Student Affairs Committee met and discussed the full smoking ban resolution for south campus as well as creating more transparency between the University Senate and the student body so they are more informed about any new policies passed by the Senate and full faculty. Chairperson Cordero-Rubinos expressed how happy he is that a representative from the Chronicle is attending today's meeting hoping this will be a good first step towards that goal. The committee also discussed recruitment for the Student Affairs Committee and how they could get more representation from different student leaders on campus.

IV. New Business

Kenny Cordero-Rubinos reported that a student approached him regarding the new commencement schedule and that she was disappointed that she will be separated from the friends she's made during her time at Hofstra because they are enrolled in a different school. A discussion followed. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin reported that in past years, the University held the ceremony in the Stadium. However, starting this year the university has moved the ceremony to the Mack Arena and have two separate ceremonies, one with HCLAS and the School of Education, and the other with the School of Business and School of Communication. The reason for the change was due to having to make adjustments to the event should the weather not cooperate. With the new system, tickets for each student is limited. A discussion followed. Sandra Johnson reported that they are working on doing an early survey as a way to know whether or not there will be extra tickets that students can apply for.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58p.m.