

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, DECEMBER 9, 2013
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

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

Absent: Angles, Balson, Espinal, Ghorayeb, Lucito

Guests: Barkwill, Fredrich, Laggan, O'Callaghan

After amending typos, the minutes of the November 4th, 2013 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

I. Report of the Provost, Herman Berliner

Provost Berliner convened the meeting by reporting that Karen O'Callaghan, Director of Public Safety, Dolores Fredrich, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, and Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations are in attendance to answer questions about the Weapons Policy presented to the Senate at the November 4th meeting.

Vice President Fredrich reported that the university has always had a written policy for students prohibiting weapons of any type, to be carried, as well as an unwritten, but enforced policy with regard to anyone else coming onto campus. The way it has come up over time has been from faculty members calling her office to inform her that there is a student in their class who has a weapon and what to do about it. Recently, a Law School professor informed her office that they have a police officer in their class who goes to work directly from school and he wants to carry his weapon. She explained that the university has an informal procedure where a Law Enforcement Officer can arrange to leave his or her weapon at a depository in the Public Safety Office while they are on campus. The Law School faculty member suggested that this be put in writing so everyone on campus understands there are no weapons to be carried onto our campus. She reported that there was no intention of changing the existing rules. Universities elsewhere in the country are firmly stating whether you can or cannot carry weapons onto their campuses. While writing the policy, her office researched what other schools were doing in terms of how they were phrasing their policies.

Prof. Silver asked what the current procedures and enforcement are. Director O'Callaghan reported that if something is brought to Public Safety's attention, they will supervise and inform the person the option is to either not come onto campus, or leave the weapon in the Public Safety Office. Prof. Silver asked if there is anything in place with regard to concealed weapons where Public Safety Officers would initiate a frisk procedure. Vice President Fredrich reported that since Public Safety Officers are not law enforcement, they cannot. Director O'Callaghan reported that if someone felt there is a reason to be concerned, the police would be called. She also reported that the law allows a civilian to use whatever force necessary in certain situations where someone's life is in danger. There could be situations where Public Safety Officers might act. She also reported that in her tenure, no guns were reported on campus. They have confiscated knives before, depending on how it is being used. She inserted that a Public Safety Officer would not initiate a search process without reason, and if they do they would be disciplined.

Provost Berliner reported that since the Weapons' Policy was passed at the last Senate meeting, pending this conversation, it will be presented to the Full Faculty at the first meeting of the spring semester.

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Chairperson Stuart Bass

Prof. Bass reported that there is an action item on the agenda proposing enforcement proceeding for smoking violations on south campus. The Senate Executive Committee has been asked by Public Safety to engage in further concrete discussions and work out some effective means of enforcement. These

discussions should take place and conclude sometime at the early part of the spring semester. He proposed to table the item pending these discussions. A discussion followed and the item was tabled.

Action Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for action, revisions to the Withdrawal Policy. Paul Fritz, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee reported that the revisions were made to make standards for students to withdraw from courses in shorter terms (January, Summer, and Short Courses,) the same as regular (Fall and Spring.) Specifically, for regular semesters a student has discretion to withdraw from a course up to the last day of the tenth week of the semester and there is no provision for any instructor approval whereas in a course shorter than 15 weeks a student may withdraw up to 2/3 of course completion but must have the instructors signature to withdraw after 2/3 of the course is completed. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin reported that with regard to weekend courses, etc. it would be dealt with on a case by case basis. Provost Berliner reported that this policy is just for undergraduate students. The item passed unanimously.
2. Prof. Bass presented for action, revisions to GPA Calculation – Multiple F Grades. Prof. Fritz reported that the current policy can create conditions under which 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. He reported that the committee collected data from the Academic Records Department to see how many multiple failures are dealt with, as well as comparing other universities’ policies. The Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee removed the provision that states “only one F grade in any one course will be included in the cumulative grade point average.” The item passed unanimously
3. Prof. Bass presented for action, an endorsement of a policy statement from Public Safety prohibiting discrimination on campus. Provost Berliner reported that Public Safety did not ask for the statement to be endorsed. The Senate Executive Committee felt it should be endorsed. Prof. Silver reported that the policy states that Public Safety Officers receive specific training, but does not mention that they adhere to these policies. Prof. Bass reported that a faculty member raised an issue of potential racial profiling at certain campus social events. It took Director Callaghan several months to come up with the policy. In terms of procedures, Public Safety is urging those who complain of discrimination in any form to reference this statement and contact the Provost’s Office and Public Safety. A discussion followed about the sufficiency of the statement. Provost Berliner reported that the Senate Executive Committee did not give feedback to the Office of Public Safety with any questions about the wording and if the Senate is looking to endorse the statement, the Senate Executive Committee should contact the Office of Public Safety for clarifications on any questions. The Senate has agreed to table the endorsement and have a discussion in terms of the next steps. Duly noted is that Dean Firestone has agreed with Prof. Silver.

III. New Business

Prof. Silver asked if there are any updates on the issue with the policy concerning email usage and privacy/ access to email communications. Provost Berliner reported that there will be.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Faculty Affairs Committee

Chairperson Giuliani reported that the committee met and recommended Emeritus Status for three different faculty members, as well as completed the first draft of the chairperson evaluations. It was forwarded to Susan Yohn, chair of the chairs’ caucus, for distribution to all chairs for review, feedback and concerns. Prof. Giuliani also reported that the committee will look into creating an “Adjunct Teacher of the Year” award. As of now, there is only Teacher of the Year awards are for

full time faculty only and adjuncts are not eligible. The committee will meet on January 10th to review the Special Leave and 6.19 Load Reduction Applications. Provost Berliner reported that the concept of Emeritus Status is that the University extends special recognition to those retiring members of its faculty who have made outstanding contributions to the University.

B. Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Fritz reported that the committee received an update from Vice President Eads on applications so far for the 2014 enrollment season. The committee also discussed changes to Faculty Policy Series #10 - Examinations, Final Grades, and Student Absences and will be bringing to the Senate soon. The committee is also working on Department Honors.

C. Planning & Budget Committee

Chairperson Maccarrone reported that the committee has met with Catherine Hennessey, Vice President for Financial Affairs as per the bylaw revisions calling for more communication between her office and the committee. Vice President Fredrich was also in attendance. Vice President Hennessey gave the committee a concise presentation in language that was understandable to the group. An issue that came up was the timing and nature of how Planning and Budget Committee should correspond regarding affirmative budgeting. It was agreed upon to allow the Planning and Budget Committee to speak with her in a very dynamic fashion throughout the year. Prof. Maccarrone reported that he met with Provost Berliner who is very forth coming with keep the communications open and it was agreed that the Provost will attend the first Planning and Budget Committee meeting in the spring and he will make himself available to the committee in October of each year. Prof. Maccarrone also reported that the Parking Task Force met on the 20th with Director O'Callaghan and Joe Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations, in attendance, to speak about the logistics of parking on campus as well as enforcement issues. Also in attendance was Michael Salatti, an adjunct professor in the Engineering Department, who discuss a senior project he will be doing in the spring semester to look at zoning, site plans, student demands, etc. that involve parking. Prof. Maccarrone also reported that he is trying to populate the Outcomes Assessment Sub Committee and encourages Senate members to ask their faculty to contact him and get involved. The Senate Executive Committee has asked the Planning and Budget Committee to look into Student Government Association funding of student organizations and the Town Hall Meeting will be on April 23rd.

D. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Caroline Schreiner reported for Chairperson Davidow that the committee discussed ways to disseminate information to graduate students for campus-related activities, policies and resources. He will reach out to Webwork to discuss adding things to the Hofstra website. Prof. Davidow also reported that the committee will be working on the Academic Leave/Withdrawal and Maintaining Matriculation Policy.

E. Student Affairs Committee

Chairperson Finnegan reported that the committee is focusing on its agenda for next semester which includes looking into student ties to the university post-graduation as well taking lead on a ban of smoking on the North side of campus. He also reported that he put together a number of events gathering student input on parking. He received a lot of positive feedback and will summarize for his committee and hopefully bring forth a recommendation to the Senate Executive Committee. The committee hopes to hold a more general meeting about parking.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05p.m.