

**MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, DECEMBER 9, 2019**  
**THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY**

Present: Abraham, Berliner, Burnett, Caniano, Chun, Ciani, Craig, Crofts, Dippel, Dougharty, Eads, Ghorayeb, Harb, Hernandez, Hirsch, Houck, Lopez, Lotier, McElroy, Mercado, Schlegel, Tarson, Wallace

Absent: Boston-Hill, Cassar, Dimes, Donefer, Elkis-Abuhoff, Eliot, Harley, Huang, Heiss, Ortiz-Jimenez, Rose, Seirup, Sunik, Tompkins

Guests: Ploran

I. The November 11, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.

**II. Report of the Provost, Provost, Herman Berliner**

The Provost convened the meeting by thanking everyone who was involved in the proposed modifications to the existing class schedule, with feedback, etc which include the Faculty Affairs Committee, the Planning and Budget Committee, the department chairs, the deans, and student government. The item went to the full faculty for information and discussion on December 3. He reported that he thinks we have a substantial improvement in our schedule starting spring, 2021. Changes include:

- 15 minutes between classes
- minimal overlap between classes
- two Common Hours

He suggests reviewing the schedule on a regular basis.

The Provost reported that the Business School Building is now a year old and opposite the building where the Career Center is located will be the new Center for Science and Innovation building (including the facilities for the School of Engineering & Applied Science and the Hofstra Northwell School of Graduate Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies). The administration has met with the finalists for the architect position last week and are now in the process of negotiating the contract. The building should break ground in about a year and will include the kind of student-friendly and inclusive environment the Business School Building has. Parking spots that will utilized in the building process will be replaced further east.

**III. Report of the Senate Executive Committee, William Caniano**

Prof. Caniano reported that he is in the process of convening the chairs of the campus-wide executive committees to discuss a proposal brought forth by Russell Chun to add questions regarding diversity and inclusion initiatives in the classroom and curriculum to the current Course and Teacher Ratings (CTRs) instrument.

Prof. Caniano reported that he met with Warren Frisina, Dean of Honors College, and Elfreda Blue, Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Affairs, about bringing Timothy Renick, Vice Provost and Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success, from Georgia State University to come in for a FRED talk about what he did there to raise retention rates.

#### **IV. New Business**

Prof. Ghorayeb reported that an Independent Study Course - ENGG 199 which students take as a technical elective and has been important for Engineering students to proceed with master's degrees and PhD's. Unfortunately, in the last year, faculty of the School of Engineering & Applied Science have been forbidden to offer this course. The Provost reported that he was not aware of any prohibition on offering ENGG 199. He also reported that if there is an independent study identical to a course already scheduled, they have asked faculty to please indicate to the students they should take the course which is already scheduled. The Provost said he will speak to the dean.

Prof. Ghorayeb also brought up an issue with the cost of summer sessions. He is wondering if Hofstra could work on some "formula" to make it less expensive for students so that they take the necessary courses at Hofstra and not somewhere else. The Provost reported that he has talked about incentives to have additional students take courses in the summer but has not gotten any proposals approved. He will revisit the proposals.

Prof Ghorayeb reported that many faculty have complained about the unfriendliness of digital measure and asks if there is any way that is comparable to how we are performing CTRs. The Provost reported that they will have a task force with a substantial number of faculty on it to look at alternatives to digital measures. The goal is to find something more user-friendly.

#### **V. Committee Reports**

A. There was no report from the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee.

B. Rina Hirsch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that next semester, the committee will review the current Secretary to the Faculty position and discuss ways to generate interest in this position and the possibility of changing the roles of the position. The committee will also discuss having faculty pictures automatically associated with Outlook and Blackboard, with an opt-out option.

C. David Harb, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the Annual Town Hall Meeting was held last Wednesday, and topics included issues with security, student pay grade, and enhancing the diversity of the faculty at Hofstra. It was very successful, and he thanks everyone involved. He also reported that the committee passed a smoke free/tobacco free policy which was introduced to the Senate Executive Committee at its last meeting.

D. Craig Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, that the committee has approved the revised class schedule and passed along its concerns to the Provost's Office. The committee suggested reviewing the new schedule to see if it is actually achieving its reported goals about a year into the cycle. The committee also met with Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations, and Karen O'Callaghan, Director of Public Safety, to discuss parking on campus, specifically enforcement issues, potential solutions and adopted solutions.

E. There was no report from the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

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