

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, FEBRUARY 10, 2014
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Bass, Berliner, Bhogal, Davidow, Diaz, Dresner, Eads, Elston, Filippi, Finnegan, Firestone, Fritz, Ghorayeb, Giuliani, Hoovort, Johnson, Lopez, Lucito, Maccarrone, Sample, Schmelkin, Silver, Thomas, Yohn

Absent: Angles, Balson, Espinal, Fincham, Flannery, Gennarelli, Glasser, Goodman,

Guests: Laggan

The minutes of the December 9th, 2013 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

I. Report of the Provost, Herman Berliner

Provost Berliner convened the meeting by reporting that the effect of canceling classes on Monday, February 3rd and Wednesday, February 5th created the compliance issues and a memo will be sent out shortly regarding the use of snow/study/reading days and the time can be made up.

Provost Berliner reported that the University Senate has been in the forefront of advocating for improved communications on all levels especially between faculty and administration. Meetings have been taking place between the chair of the Senate Executive Committee, the Speaker of the Faculty, the chair of the Chairs' Caucus and the President on a regular basis. Another such meeting is scheduled for next week. A meeting has taking place between the leaders of the Board of Trustees and the faculty leadership with another meeting being scheduled within the next month or two. Prof Yohn, the chair of the Chairs' Caucus suggested to the President that we have a new program where faculty will make a presentation to the Board of Trustees. There has never had a presentation by a faculty member at the Board of Trustees meeting. Kathleen Wallace, from the Department of Philosophy, will be the first faculty member to make a presentation at a Board of Trustees' meeting. The presentation will be based on her department and some of the initiatives that are taking place. This is also part of getting the trustees more involved in what is happening on campus.

Provost Berliner reported that an announcement will be sent out within the next couple of days on the recipients for this year's Diversity and LGBT Grants which include a study and impact of charter schools on diversity, focusing specifically on Roosevelt and Hempstead, two communities where the charter movement is fairly strong. There will also be an award given to increasing access to legal services for LGBT immigrants on Long Island, as well as an award on the influence of family acceptance on LGBT college students' well-being. This is all made possible by the Celebration of Diversity Dinner and the National Center for Suburban Studies.

Provost Berliner also reported that the university received a new Two million dollar grant from New York State which will help us fund two additional labs for the School of Engineering and Applied Science. One is a big data lab and the other a robotics lab. The university will have to match the two million dollars with university money. This will also allow us to strengthen our thermal and strength labs and completely renovate Adams Hall.

Provost Berliner reported on the upcoming events:

- Soccer as the Beautiful Game: Football's Artistry, Identity and Politics (April 10 - 14th)
 - awarding of an honorary degree to soccer legend Pelé. – April 11th.
 - Unveiling of a plaque in honor of Pelé and his humanitarian work. –April 13th
- Center for Civic Engagement - Earth Day - April 24th
- The Hofstra Shakespeare Festival - The Comedy of Errors

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Chairperson Stuart Bass

Prof. Bass reported that the Senate Executive Committee is attempting to meet with Karen O’Callaghan in an effort to engage in some substantive conversations regarding enforcement to the smoking ban. He reported that the Planning and Budget Committee is also working on a ban to take place on the North campus as well.

Action Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for action, the Laboratory Animal Facilities Occupational Health and Safety Plan. This is required as a uniformed policy and also necessary to have a plan in standing in order to get funding for various and specific research projects. The item passed unanimously.
2. Prof. Bass presented for action, the revisions to Faculty Policy Series #10 - Examinations, Final Grades, and Student Absences. Prof. Fritz, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee reported that last year, the Student Affairs Committee brought to the UAAC’s attention that some students are not receiving any feedback on their grades until very late in the semester. The committee took it as an opportunity to expand the language and make it clear that grading policy should be stated clearly in the syllabus for the course. A discussion followed and the following amendments were made:

The following sentence:

Faculty are strongly encouraged to provide students with graded feedback on their performance as early in the semester as possible and always before the deadline for a grade of W.

was changed to:

Faculty are strongly encouraged to provide students with graded feedback on their performance as early in the semester as possible before the deadline for a grade of W.

The following sentence:

The policy for establishing the final grade....

was changed to:

The faculty policy for establishing the final grade...

The item passed as amended.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Faculty Affairs Committee

Chairperson Giuliani reported that the committee met in January to review all of the Special Leave Applications as well as all of the 3 semester course reductions that the faculty submitted. The committee has completed its initial draft of the evaluation of chair persons, however it went to the chairpersons for review, who sent it back with concerns. Therefore, Susan Yohn, chair of the Chairs' Caucus, will attend the next Faculty Affairs Committee to represent the chairpersons and discuss concerns with the evaluations. The committee is also looking at adjunct representation on the

University Senate. At the moment, there is one adjunct representative who sits on the University Senate. The committee will review what other colleges and universities are doing. The committee will also look at the “Teacher of the Year” awards and whether or not adjuncts can be eligible.

B. Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Fritz reported that the committee met and discussed Departmental Honors. Neil Donahue, Senior Associate Dean, Honors College was in attendance to give his perspective. There are a number of issues including how to handle the issue of students not completing honors level work. Before its next meeting, the committee will collect information on how different departments operate so that any changes that are made are consistent with past practices.

C. Planning & Budget Committee

Chairperson Maccarrone reported that the committee had planned to meet with Provost Berliner and Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin on Wednesday, February 5th but had to reschedule to this Wednesday because of the snow storm. They will discuss the academic part of the budget. He reported that on November 19th, Catherine Hennessey, Vice President for Financial Affairs, gave the committee a concise presentation. Prof. Maccarrone also reported that the Parking Task Force met on November 20 with Karen O’Callaghan, Director of Public Safety, and Joe Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations, to speak about the logistics of parking on campus as well as enforcement issues. Michael Salatti, an adjunct professor in the Engineering Department, who discussed a senior project he will be doing in the spring semester to look at zoning, site plans, student demands, etc. that involve parking. This project has begun and off to a good start. Prof. Maccarrone also reported that the Annual Town Meeting date has changed from April 23rd to April 30th, due to the President’s schedule. It will be an extended Town Hall meeting to have it more inclusive. He also reported that he along with William Finnegan, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, and Stuart Bass, chair of the Senate Executive Committee, will be meeting with Sandra Johnson, Vice President for Student Affairs to discuss how the Student Government Association funds its clubs. The Planning and Budget Committee will also look into expanding the smoking ban to include the North Campus.

D. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Davidow reported that the committee will continue to discuss ways to disseminate information to graduate students for campus-related activities, policies and resources. The committee was going to create a website where people can post research opportunities but because of legal reasons, it might not work out. 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 will work on outcomes assessment to see what alumnus still use different Hofstra resources. He will reach out to the Career Center and the Office of Alumni Relations. Chairperson Finnegan reported that the committee will look into creating a ban on smoking on the North Campus. He also reported that the Student Government Association will be sponsoring its second student appreciation week within the next couple of weeks. Since this collects much information as to student interest and desires, the Student Affairs Committee will reach out and support them. The committee will also discuss ways to increase representation and recruitment. Chairperson Finnegan also introduced Edgar Diaz, who will be representing the Student Government Association at future University Senate Meetings.

IV. Adjournment

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