

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, FEBRUARY 11, 2013
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Balson, Bass, Berliner, Bhogal, Binbasioglu, Brown, Cordero-Rubinos, Crosson, Davidow, Eads, Elkis-Abuhoff, Finnegan, Firestone, Flannery, Fritz, Giuliani, Goodman, Johnson, Kamberova, Lopez, Lucito, Papper B., Papper, C., Pillaipakkamnatt, Sample, Schmelkin, Silver, Venuti

Absent: Gennarelli, Gianarkis, Glasser, Liang, Miller

Guests: Nirode

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

I. Report of the Provost, Herman Berliner

Provost Berliner convened the meeting by reporting that he along with President Rabinowitz, Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin and Michael Barnes from the Department of Psychology congratulated over 300 student athletes who have achieved over a 3.0 average as well as 28 student athletes who have a 4.0 average and have made the Provost's list. This is a remarkable accomplishment by these terrific representatives of Hofstra University.

The Provost reported that the smoking ban on south campus is in effect and there are new signs indicated so across the south campus. Moving forward, the question of should there be smoking on the north campus will also be looked into.

The Provost reported that the sustainability conference, From the Outside In: Sustainable Futures for Global Cities and Suburbs will be held on March 7, 8 & 9th is a three-day conference focusing on the sustainable futures in global city-regions, taking the suburbs as its starting point and working its way inward to the city center. It is being directed by Robert Brinkmann, from the department of Geology, Environment and Sustainability, and Christopher Niedt, from the department of Applied Social Research. The original conference was scheduled immediately after Hurricane Sandy, and because of the hurricane was postponed. One whole day of the rescheduled conference will now be devoted to themes related to Hurricane Sandy and suburban resiliency.

The Provost also reported that the Black History Month opening reception will be held on Wednesday, February 13th during Common Hour in the Plaza Rooms. The reception will feature keynote speaker Sherley Cherenfant, former Hofstra student and controller/operations manager of Erase Racism.

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Chairperson Stuart Bass

Prof. Bass reported that the Special Task Force on the challenges facing the University and its international student population is presently in formation and the Senate Executive Committee will notify everyone by email as to the ultimate composition of the task force. Paul Fritz, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, and Jason Davidow, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee have agreed to co-chair the committee.

Prof. Bass reported that Elizabeth Venuti has resigned as University Senator and chair of the Planning and Budget Committee. She has been appointed as the new chair of the Accounting, Taxation, and Legal Studies. Prof. Bass thanks her for the excellent job she has done chairing the committee for the past year and a half. He reported that the Senate Executive Committee has appointed Meral Binbasioglu, from the Information Technology and Quantitative Methods Department to complete Prof. Venuti's term and will serve on the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee. In addition, Prof. Lopez will be reassigned to the Planning and Budget Committee. The Planning and Budget Committee will hold an election at the end of February for a new chair. Prof. Bass also reported that Prof. Fritz has returned from leave and will continue to chair the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee.

Prof. Bass reported that back in the fall, several faculty members have approached him with a concern of racial profiling which was announced at the last Senate meeting. Unfortunately, a perception has been created that incidents of racial profiling have in fact taken place. Prof. Bass reported that he, along with William Nirode, Speaker of the Faculty have met with Karen O'Callaghan, Director of Public Safety, and John O'Malley, Associate Director of Public Safety Operations who have assured Prof. Bass & Prof. Nirode that Public Safety is constantly engaged in sensitive training and if indeed if there is any perception, even remotely, of any type of racial profiling they are urging those who have observed or witnessed it, to immediately report it to Public Safety as well as the Provost's Office. There is a zero-tolerance policy at the university and it has been assured there is no such activity taking place currently.

III. Committee Reports

A. Planning & Budget Committee

Chairperson Venuti reported that Dolores Fredrich, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, and Catherine Hennessy, Vice President for Financial Affairs and Treasurer, will attend the first Planning and Budget Committee on February 27th to discuss the state of the university. An election for a new chair of the committee will be held at this meeting. The Planning and Budget Committee will also continue work on a possible smoking ban for the North Campus as well as outcome measurement instruments. The Town Hall meeting will be held on March 20th during common hour and we will be reverting back to the old format.

B. Faculty Affairs Committee

Chairperson Giuliani reported that the committee will review slight revisions that were made to the Dean's Evaluation, which should be presented at the next faculty meeting. The committee is also working on an evaluation of chairpersons. Provost Berliner suggests working closely with the chairs' caucus.

C. Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Fritz reported that the committee met with Greg Maney and Mario Murillo from the Center for Civic Engagement about how the conflict of interest policy that was inserted into the recommendation for Academic Credit for Significant Leadership and Service Positions On-Campus may affect them. The committee made clear that intention of the policy was not to apply to the Center for Civic Engagement but more for students serving in organizations that fulfill some critical function to the university's operation such as the University Senate. The Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee agreed to assert some language into the policy to make it clearer. He also reported that the committee started some discussion about the NR grade and its impact on the

Completion Ratio. There have been recent examples where this has had a negative impact on the students. Through no fault of their own, the students were placed on Completion Ratio Probation because a faculty did not report a grade. A discussion was started about whether or not the NR should be included in the Completion Ratio calculation but will request more data from Academic Records before making this recommendation.

D. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Davidow reported that the committee will continue to revise Faculty Policy Series #11G - (Procedures of Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Graduate Students at Hofstra University). The committee will also look at an issue regarding the repeat grade policy for graduate students.

E. Student Affairs Committee

Chairperson Cordero-Rubinos reported that the Student Affairs Committee reported that the committee will discuss the anticipated smoking ban on North Campus and possibly creating a designated smoking area. The committee will also discuss an issue regarding graduate students attending events meant for undergraduates.

IV. New Business

Provost Berliner reported that the Honor Board is ready to elect its faculty members. A nomination ballot will go out through Blackboard shortly. The three co-chairs of the Honor Board include Warren Frisina, Dan Seabold, and Aaron Richman who is a sophomore that has been on the Dean's List three times in a row as well as an athlete.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33p.m.