

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, FEBRUARY 13, 2012
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Bass, Bergemann, Bhogal, Brown, Davidow, Eads, Finnegan, Firestone, Fritz, Gennarelli, Giebel, Giuliani, Hewitt, Jacobi, Kamberova, Lightfoot, Lopez, Moghadam, Papper, Sarno, Schmelkin, Venuti, Zelinski

Absent: Balson, Berliner, Elkis-Abuhoff, Gambord, Glasser, Johnson, Macy, Meredith, Pillaipakkamnatt, Sample

Guests: Nirode

The minutes of the December 5, 2011 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.

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Chairperson Stuart Bass

Action Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for action revisions to Faculty Statute VII, which calls for a modification in the term of elected university senators and student senators. Currently what the language of Faculty Statute VII provide is that a senator shall serve for no more than two terms (a term being 3 years) but no longer than eight consecutive years. The Senate Executive Committee has found this to be somewhat incongruous and requests that the language be changed to nine consecutive years, and that no student senator shall serve more than three successive academic years. In addition, revisions were made to allow additional terms for Senators-At-Large appointments and will be subject to the confirmation of the Senate Executive Committee. After a few clerical amendments, the item passed unanimously. This item will be brought to the full faculty as an action item.

2. Prof. Bass presented for action revisions to the Academic Calendar Committee. Since the Dean of Academic Records has retired, the committee needed to be looked at and a few changes were made to the membership including replacing the Dean of Academic Records with the Registrar and removing the Staff member. An amendment was made to change the following sentence:

The Committee shall consist of the Dean of Academic Records, one designate appointed by each of the Provost,

to

The Committee shall consist of the Dean of Academic Records, one designate appointed by the Provost,

The item passed unanimously as amended and will be brought to the full faculty as an information item.

III. Committee Reports

A. Planning & Budget Committee

Chairperson Venuti reported that the Town Hall Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28th during Common Hour in the Plaza Rooms in the Student Center. President Rabinowitz has been confirmed to speak. There has been discussion about changing the format to the meeting to where the President addresses the students and then having different tables where various administrators

discuss different issues. Sandra Johnson, Vice President for Student Affairs, will be attending the next Planning and Budget Committee to discuss this possibility.

Prof. Venuti also reported that the Special Task Force on Parking and Transportation has two new co-chairs, Richard Apollo, Associate Provost for Budget and Planning, and Dom Lavin, Director of Campus Operations and they will be meeting on Tuesday morning.

Prof. Venuti reported that Catherine Hennessy, Vice President for Financial Affairs and Treasurer, and Dolores Fredrich, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, attended the last Planning and Budget Committee meeting and gave the committee a very thorough presentation on the financial health of the university. It was the charge of the Planning and Budget Committee to assure the University Senate that the money saved from the elimination of the football program was being reallocated towards scholarship. Prof Venuti reported that the administration has increased scholarships by more than 4.5 million and the committee sees a significant increase in the amount of discounted student tuition.

Prof. Venuti reported that she, along with Stuart Bass have met with Karen O'Callaghan, Director of Public Safety, to discuss the crosswalk on California Avenue and the smoking issue. She reported that they do see a lot more involvement on the part of Public Safety now and will be drafting a note that public safety will give to the two municipalities who are in charge of California Avenue. She explained that The Town of Hempstead controls one side of California Avenue, while the Village of Hempstead controls the other, therefore getting some form of traffic signal at that juncture is not an easy task. Alternatives to having a traffic signal including grooves in the road that slow traffic down and increase the painting warning that there is a stop sign coming up, have also been discussed with Director O'Callaghan. Public Safety is aware of the safety situation on California Avenue and are working on improving it.

Prof. Venuti reported that the Academic Computing Subcommittee has prepared a very detailed report. The chair of the committee was Gary Moore from the Law School but since he is the Assistant Dean for Information Systems, and not a faculty member, he cannot chair the committee and will continue to serve on the committee as a special advisor to the Provost. The committee will be meeting soon to elect a new chair. The committee will continue to discuss issues such as the status of Academic Computing, the number of classrooms that have computers, the speed that they operate a, amount of downtime, etc. and report back to the Planning and Budget Committee. There was some discussion with Catherine Hennessey about an increase in the student technology fee, but Financial Affairs is opposed to this idea. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin reported that the Provost is putting together a task force looking at computing in general so that these issues are dealt with in a broader way than just the Academic Computing subcommittee. A small discussion followed. Prof. Bass reported that he and the Speaker of the Faculty have met with Bob Juckiewicz, Vice President for Information Technology, regarding the issue that if someone is away from their computer for more than a few minutes, they are required to log back in which has caused concern and frustration to many faculty members. While they are sensitized to security measures and issues that are of concern to the administration, they want to reach a compromise that satisfies the faculty's needs and concerns.

B. Faculty Affairs Committee

Chairperson Giuliani reported that the Faculty Affairs Committee met at the end of December and continued to work on the issue of uploading material for tenure and promotion to Blackboard, which will start in the fall. Amy Masnick, from the Psychology Department attended the meeting to speak about the process as the Psychology Department has been uploading materials to Blackboard for some time now and it seems to be a positive experience. The Faculty Affairs Committee has requested that the administration supply them with very specific directions regarding how to upload

these materials and task analysis such as who is responsible for setting up the accounts and uploading the material, etc. Once the committee receives this information, they will begin to create guidelines for the faculty.

Prof. Giuliani also reported that a task force has been created to look into the issue of evaluating non-academic administrators and the Faculty Affairs Committee will be responsible for creating an evaluation system of chairs and deans. The committee will begin by looking at what other universities do. A discussion followed about uploading materials to Blackboard. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin reported that certain things, such as books will be excluded from the upload to Blackboard. A discussion followed about journal articles and gaining permission to upload them to Blackboard for tenure purposes. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin commented that if it's in Blackboard for the purpose of review it may not be an issue, but this will be looked at as these procedures move forward.

Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin also reported that the Course and Teacher Ratings will be made available online, in pdf form, through the portal within the next couple of weeks.

C. Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Fritz reported that the committee discussed models for how to allow students to earn academic credit for significant on-campus service, specifically students who chair Senate standing committees or Student Government Association. There are severable workable options that the committee is considering. The committee will hopefully meet with a representative from the Office for Off-Campus Education that runs the internships, to see if it is a workable solution to bring on-campus service into the internship model. The committee's consensus was that this could be a really good thing for the students. At the Senate Executive Committee, it was discussed whether or not it was possible to establish some sort of scholarship to encourage student service.

D. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Lightfoot reported that the committee has met and continued their discussion on planning a professional development series for faculty to promote competency and sensitivity to issues of diversity. This is broadly speaking to include issues of gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, class, etc. The committee has contacted different units on campus that have a stake of these particular areas of diversity and are now planning a meeting with these representatives to talk about developing a curriculum. This particular curriculum can address professor's knowledge, skills and dispositions so the committee needs to identify resources and funding to initiate and to ensure ongoing professional development for the faculty.

E. Student Affairs Committee

Chairperson Jacobi reported that the Student Affairs Committee discussed smoking in brief but did not pass a resolution last semester as they wanted to discuss it with the Planning and Budget Committee first. However, the Plant department has purchased new signs and have placed them outside of the unispan on the academic side alerting students of the 20-foot smoking buffer zone, and the committee is hoping to get additional signs on other parts of campus. The committee is also looking into coming up with a type of resolution to address the "hot spots" in areas such as the Netherlands where the 20-foot buffer of one building goes into the 20-foot buffer of another building and having designated areas for smoking.

Ms. Jacobi also reported that the Shuttle Subcommittee has met and will be reaching out to the Plant Department and Public Safety to meet and have a coordinated effort to talk about extending the shuttles and having the shuttles in the mid-week make runs to surrounding shopping areas such as

Target and grocery stores. The subcommittee will also be working with the Student Government Association and hopefully a marketing class to conduct surveys on the bus service.

Stephanie Bushey, Vice President for Institutional Research and Assessment, came to the last Student Affairs Committee to present on Student Satisfaction at Hofstra. Having a “campus atmosphere” and students feeling safe on campus were the two biggest things Hofstra needs to work on. Ms Jacobi will be meeting with Sandra Johnson, Greg Maney, Mario Murillo, from the Center for Civic Engagement, and Pete Libman to look at establishing some type of way to promote local businesses, local museums and facilities within walking or biking distance from the campus.

Ms. Jacobi also reported that the Chronicle has interviewed her for an article about the Student Affairs Committee and the university at large and are hoping to attend Senate meetings on a regular basis to better promote the University Senate to students.

IV. New Business

There was no new business.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45p.m.