

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, MARCH 11, 2013

THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Bass, Berliner, Bhogal, Binbasioglu, Cordero-Rubinos, Davidow, Eads, Elkis-Abuhoff, Flannery, Fritz, Gennarelli, Giuliani, Glasser, Goodman, Johnson, Kamberova, Lopez, Lucito, Miller, Papper B., Papper, C., Sample, Schmelkin,

Absent: Balson, Brown, Crosson, Finnegan, Firestone, Gianarkis, Liang, Pillaipakkamnatt, Silver,

Guests: LaFiora, Nirode

After amending a typo, the minutes of the February 11, 2013 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

I. Report of the Provost, Herman Berliner

Provost Berliner convened the meeting by reporting that last Sunday's undergraduate admissions event was enormously successful with a well attended, positive crowd, that seemed very interested in Hofstra. Jessica Eads, Vice President for Enrollment Management, reported that in total, approximately 800 students attended who brought entire families along with them, creating an exciting and energized atmosphere. The Admissions office received positive feedback. She reported that the Honors College Dinner will be held on Saturday night and is expected to have record high attendance, as there is a lot of interest joining the Honors College population. Warren Frisina has reached out to faculty members to join the dinner and speak with families. She also reported that on Sunday, March 17th is our 2nd large scale admitted student program, followed by an additional program in April. Prof. Bhogal reported that he had technology issues while trying to play films he had prepared for his presentation and suggests that in the future, technical staff should check the equipment in each room prior to the events.

Provost Berliner reported that the National Center for Suburban Studies held their Celebration of Suburban Diversity on Wednesday, March 6, 2013 at the Long Island Marriott with 500 people in attendance. Honorees included David Powell from the Romance Language Department who has received an award for all his efforts on behalf of the LGBT Community and the University. In addition, a conference, From the Outside In: Sustainable Futures for Global Cities and Suburbs will be held on March 7, 8 & 9th. It is a three-day conference, hosted by the National Center for Suburban Studies, in conjunction with Columbia University and NYU, 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 Sociology. Provost Berliner noted that the National Center for Suburban Studies has been a wonderful addition to Hofstra University.

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Chairperson Stuart Bass

Prof. Bass reported that Victor Lopez, has been elected as chair of the Planning and Budget Committee.

Prof. Bass also reported that Karen O'Callaghan, Director of Public Safety, has assured him that very shortly, the Office of Public Safety will issue a new statement on zero tolerance regarding racial profiling.

Prof. Bass also reported that he, along with Will Nirode, Speaker of the Faculty, Bob Papper, chair of the chairs' caucus, met with the President and Pat Adamski, Senior Vice President for Planning and Administration, along with Provost Berliner and Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin. The President reemphasized the concerns regarding enrollment and the related issues and its impact on the budgetary process. The President will address those items at the meeting with the full faculty which has been confirmed for Monday, March 18th at 3pm in room 246 East Library Wing.

Action Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for action a revision to Faculty Policy Series #11G, - Academic Honesty Policy. When the full faculty passed recommendations created by the Task Force on Integrity and Responsibility Report that included the addition of a new Honor Board to deal with academic honesty issues, a slight modification of Faculty Policy Series #11 was made by the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee. The revisions to FPS #11G were made to keep the structure of the policy similar to the undergraduate policy. A discussion followed and the following amendments were made:

The following sentence was removed from the first paragraph:

The goal of most graduate study is synthesis and analysis, and the independent evaluation by students of others' work.

The following sentence:

If the instructor or program faculty previously prepared and issued to students a predetermined academic honesty policy, which includes specific penalties for certain violations, then the instructor should abide by the provisions of this policy.

was changed to:

If the instructor or program faculty previously distributed to students in writing a predetermined academic honesty policy, which includes specific penalties for certain violations, then the instructor should abide by the provisions of this policy.

III. B 1. (as amended) was switched with III. B. 2.

The item passed with one opposed as amended.

2. Prof. Bass presented for action revisions to Faculty Policy Series #33A, Financial Conflict of Interest Policy in Relation to Sponsored Projects and Faculty Policy Series #41 Policy for Dealing With and Reporting Possible Misconduct in Research. In late August, these were updated by Sofia Kakoulidis, Associate Provost for Research & Sponsored Programs in order to comply with Federal regulations. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin reported that there were no real substandard changes, the language was cleaned up so it is consistent with the law. These revisions need to go through the shared governance process. The items have already been looked at and approved by the Faculty Affairs Committee. Both items were passed unanimously.

III. Committee Reports

A. Planning & Budget Committee

Chairperson Lopez reported that Dolores Fredrich, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, and Catherine Hennessy, Vice President for Financial Affairs and Treasurer, attended the first Planning and Budget Committee on February 27th to discuss the state of the university. Provost Berliner reported that Vice President of Legal Affairs Fredrich and Vice President Hennessy will come back to the next Planning and Budget Committee meeting and answer questions regarding the financial condition of the University and the financial report that was given by Dr. Howard Bunsis at a recent AAUP meeting. Prof. Lopez reported that 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 Dean's Evaluation will be presented at the next faculty meeting. The committee is also working on an evaluation of chairpersons. Once a draft is

completed, Prof. Giuliani will contact Prof Papper for review and feedback. He also reported that the majority of the conversation at the last Faculty Affairs Committee meeting was on adjunct representation on the Senate. There was a general consensus in the committee that adjunct representation is not proportionate to what is going on at the university so the committee will continue to explore this issue.

C. Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Fritz reported that the committee started discussion about the NR grade and its impact on the Completion Ratio. Representatives from the Academic Records Department came to the meeting to present some data which revealed that just under 50% where almost entire classes are NRs. Clearly this is a problem on campus, but the fundamental question is whether the policy is in the abstract and whether NRs should be included in the completion ratio. The committee has not been able to come to a resolution on this but will continue to look at data. A small discussion followed on how the data is broken down by Academic Records. Prof. Fritz also reported that the committee is also working on inserting language into the conflict of interest policy (that was inserted into the recommendation for Academic Credit for Significant Leadership and Service Positions On-Campus) so that the bodies of the Center for Civic Engagement aren't excluded. The committee will also look at an issue that came from the Student Affairs Committee on issues not receiving feedback during the term. The committee will look at Faculty Policy Series #10 - Examinations, Final Grades, and Student Absences, to see if somehow the language can be strengthened.

D. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Davidow reported that the committee spent their last meeting completing the revisions to Faculty Policy Series #11G - (Procedures of Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Graduate Students at Hofstra University). The committee also looked at an issue regarding the repeat grade policy for graduate students. A student who may receive a poor grade in a program where there aren't a lot of credits, would have difficulty staying off academic probation. Evan Koegl and Carol Drummer did research on other schools' repeat course policy and found that out of the eleven schools they solicited, only one allows a graduate student to repeat a course and excludes the grade from the student's GPA. Prof. Davidow also reported that the committee will resume its work on as well as continuing their work on creating a professional development series for faculty to promote competency and sensitivity to issues of diversity.

E. Student Affairs Committee

Chairperson Cordero-Rubinos reported that the Student Affairs Committee reported that the committee discussed a possible smoking ban for the north side of campus. The committee decided that the five elected senators would brainstorm on where to create a designated smoking area. The committee also agreed to move forward with looking into the Graduate Student Activity fee to take a small percentage to be allocated for campus wide programming such as: Weekend Movies and Musicfest. The committee also discussed the concept of a "State of the Hofstra" by the President to show where we are as a university, possibly working with HEAT (Hofstra television club or the Hofstra filmmakers club on an annual basis) will provide a greater connection with the school.

IV. New Business

There was no new business.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57p.m.