

## **MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, MARCH 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

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

**Present:** Balson, Basile, Bass, Berliner, Davidow, DiMartino, Dougharty, Dresner, Elsey, Elston, Fincham, Firestone, Gennarelli, Ghorayeb, Glasser, Jernigan, Laggan, Maccarrone, McGinnis, Sample, Sarcka, Silver

**Absent:** Atkinson, Eads, Espinal, Filippi, Hoovert, Lucito, Mehta, Morales, Olson, Wallace

**Guests:** Mazzocco, Nirode,

The minutes of the February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

#### **I. Report of the Provost, Provost Herman Berliner**

Provost Berliner convened the meeting by reporting that on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, Hofstra will host its sixth annual St. Baldrick's Day Event for children's cancer. The event challenges Hofstra faculty, staff, students and community members to collect donations for childhood cancer research, setting a goal which if met the participant will shave their head. Last year, the club raised about \$34,000.00 to which the Provost agreed to have his head shaved. Given the success of last year, the Provost has agreed to shave his head if \$40,000.00 is raised. The fundraiser raises money for childhood cancer research, and this year's fundraiser is dedicated to the memory of Peter Libman, Dean of Students, who was a tremendous champion in terms of fundraising for St. Baldrick's.

The Provost reported that tomorrow is the first meeting of the LGBTQIA Task Force to which he is co-chairing with W. Houston Dougharty, Vice President for Student Affairs. This is a very important task force since we always strive to be as welcome and supportive community as we possibly can be. There will be an opportunity through sub-committees for everyone who wishes to be involved.

The Provost noted that a recommendation had come from the University Senate to the full faculty revising the Fall 2015 Calendar to start on Wednesday, September 2nd, rather than the Monday of that week. This item was voted down by the faculty. Since registration was starting almost immediately, it was not possible for the Academic Records Department to make the change to the earlier starting date. After consulting with the Speaker of the Faculty and the chair of the Senate Executive Committee, the Provost recommended to the President that the revisions to the calendar that was passed by the University Senate, be implemented for 2015-2016. The Provost reported

that at the same faculty meeting, the 2016-2017 Academic Calendar was also voted down, and is still being worked on. A discussion followed.

## **II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Stuart Bass**

Prof. Bass reported that Anthony Basile, from the Department of Accounting & Taxation, will be sitting in for Victor Lopez, who is on leave, for the 2015 spring semester.

Prof. Bass reported that at its last meeting, the Senate Executive Committee considered revisions to both the Athletic Policy Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee bylaws. However, there were concerns raised on both issues regarding the composition of the committees, as well as voting procedures. Therefore, both revisions were tabled and should be resolved by the next Senate Executive Committee meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Prof. Bass reported that the Senate Executive Committee has come to a resolution with the Student Government Association and the Office of Student Affairs regarding potential appropriations and monies for certain clubs and honors societies and organizations on campus. He urges anyone who is a faculty advisor to one of these clubs or organizations to contact the Dean of Students or the chair of the Student Affairs Committee.

## **III. Committee Reports**

### **A. Faculty Affairs Committee**

Chairperson Sample reported that the committee has been working on revisions to its bylaws. It was brought to the Senate Executive Committee where there were significant concerns raised to voting and membership. The committee will continue to work on these revisions. At its last meeting, Donna Balson, Adjunct Senator, gave a presentation regarding adjunct representation and interest in the long term master plan for the university. Prof. Sample also reported that per the request of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, and in turn, of the Senate Executive Committee, a joint subcommittee composed of members of both the UAAC and the FAC will be established. The purpose of this subcommittee is to consider and make recommendations regarding the possibility of implementing mandatory midterm assessments in undergraduate courses.

#### B. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Davidow reported that the committee will continue to discuss the Faculty Policy Series #36 – The Use of Human Subjects in Research, which deals with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and its procedures. With the new schools in place, small changes need to be made. The committee is also conducting research on graduate student recruitment practices at other comparable schools. Each committee member is looking at its particular area of study. Provost Berliner suggested that the committee should look into IRB policies for the School of Graduate Nursing and Health Professions. A slight discussion followed about the new school.

#### C. Planning & Budget Committee

Chairperson Maccarrone reported that the Town Hall was a huge success with a great dialogue between administrators and students. Towards the end of the meeting, there were compelling questions and comments about sexual harassment on university campuses. (Hofstra University is taking part in the national campaign It's On Us, a cultural movement aimed at fundamentally shifting the way we think about sexual assault.) Prof. Maccarrone reported that the committee will continue to work with the Student Affairs Committee regarding the Designated Smoking Areas and North Campus Smoking ban, as well as working with the Plant Department and the Office of Public Safety regarding parking regulations and shuttle service.

Prof. Maccarrone reported that he attended the opening of the new Medical School which was very impressive. The Planning and Budget Committee has met with Dean Smith in the past regarding the role and functions of the Medical School at the university.

Prof. Maccarrone reported that on February 25<sup>th</sup>, the committee met with Provost Berliner who gave an update on present and proposed academic operating part of the budget, as well as Catherine Hennessey, Vice President for Financial Affairs and Treasurer, on the status of university's financial affairs and proposed university budget.

#### D. Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Silver reported that at the last faculty meeting, the revisions to Departmental Honors was tabled and sent back to the committee. He reported that the key point seems to be the matter of trying to develop a transcript with respect to honors which is straightforward and

not misleading and how an outside viewer would look at a student's performance. The committee's main concern was to be fair to students attempting to earn departmental honors while at the same time avoiding any potential confusion on a student's transcript that may arise if that student fails to earn departmental honors. The committee will take another look at the revisions it has made at its next meeting.

Prof. Silver reported that the committee began its discussion of mid-semester grade reporting. Mention was made of the need to consider the contexts in which classes are offered (e.g., first-year vs other; classroom vs distance). The politics of offering a midterm assessment was discussed, as well as questions of workload. Since this would be outside what the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee should be looking at, it was discussed at the Senate Executive Committee to make this discussion a joint effort between the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee. He also reported that the committee has begun considering the role of UNIV 1; it was decided to invite Holly Seirup to offer her perspective at the next meeting.

#### E. Student Affairs Committee

Chelsea Laggan has stepped down as chair of the Student Affairs Committee and Jared Sarcka was voted to continue her term for the spring semester. The committee is in the preliminary stages of looking into the feasibility of having Shuttle Service to Franklin Avenue, as well as extending the gym hours. The committee will also be speaking to Joe Barkwill and Karen O'Callaghan on the 1:1 Policy and to see if revisions need to be made. Both Vice President Barkwill and Director O'Callaghan will be attending the next Student Affairs Committee meeting. The committee has also partnered up with Entertainment Unlimited (EU), who is in charge of planning concerts on campus, to see if they can assist in any way.

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

There was no new business.

#### **V. Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at 3:41p.m.