

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, APRIL 15, 2013
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Balson, Bass, Berliner, Binbasioglu, Brown, Cordero-Rubinos, Crosson, Davidow, Eads, Elkis-Abuhoff, Firestone, Fritz, Gennarelli, Giuliani, Glasser, Goodman, Johnson, Kamberova, Lopez, Lucito, Papper B., Papper, C., Sample, Schmelkin, Silver, Singh

Absent: Bhogal, Finnegan, Flannery, Gianarkis, Liang, Miller, Pillaipakkamnatt,

Guests: Dalton, Kasmir, Maney, Mwaria, Nirode

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

I. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Chairperson Stuart Bass

Action Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for action the 2015-2016 Academic Calendar. Lynne Dougherty, chair of the Calendar Committee reported that since Labor Day is on September 7th, classes will begin the week before Labor Day. There will be no classes on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the fall semester has no conversion days. The Spring semester is pretty standard and there is a full week of classes between the end of the spring break and the beginning of final exams. Prof. Silver pointed out that in the beginning of the fall semester, because of the holidays, Monday classes do not meet for 2 weeks and this could really disrupt the academic flow and could create problems. Provost Berliner reported that this has been presented of number of times to the faculty and students and have not gotten support in changing the calendar, though this does not preclude us from presenting it again. He also reported that the Calendar Committee is governed by the calendar guidelines. The item passed with 2 abstentions.
2. Prof. Bass presented for discussion revisions to the Senate Committee Bylaws, and two faculty resolutions, including the inclusion of faculty representation on the Board of Trustees. He reported that at a faculty meeting in the fall, Prof. Silver presented a resolution calling for greater inclusion, collaboration, and transparency on the part of the administration. The resolution was tabled so that the various issues could be discussed and potential revisions proposed to the bylaws. The Senate leadership incorporated the issues into revisions of the bylaws that would guarantee greater participation of faculty in the overall governance process, specifically as it relates to the Undergraduate Academic Affairs, Graduate Academic Affairs and the Planning and Budget committees. The revisions and resolutions being presented are strictly for discussion purposes and will be brought back to the University Senate at its April 29th meeting as an action item.

Prof. Silver reported that the language of the original proposal brought before the full faculty, was reworked in consultation with Prof. Bass, Prof. Nirode, Prof. Papper and Provost Berliner. At a subsequent full faculty meeting, he made a motion to untable his original resolution and in the context of discussion, a substitute resolution, with very different tone and six points were reintroduced at the meeting. This resolution was then discussed and the proposed amendments are on the floor of the full faculty at this time however, the items being introduced at today's meeting is not the resolution that is currently on the floor of the full faculty. Prof. Bass reported that it was the

judgment of the Senate Executive Committee to propose the changes made. A discussion followed. The original resolution, along with its revision was presented to the full faculty on a Blackboard site where an online discussion ensued. Questions were raised why the Senate Executive Committee is not presenting what was posted and discussed on Blackboard. Provost Berliner clarified that the resolution is first presented to the Senate Executive Committee to review and make amendments which is the normal shared governance process. The University Senate will ultimately decide at its next meeting on April 29th what to send to the full faculty, but the item being presented today is a starting point. Prof. Papper presented and handed out a revision he created that he believes will strengthen the revisions in line with the six points that were posted on Blackboard. (See attachment M1). In addition, Prof. Silver presented and handed out the original resolution as well as the first revision. All versions of the resolution will be posted on Blackboard for further discussion by the faculty and the Senate Executive Committee will make a decision on what to present to the Senate, next Monday.

III. Committee Reports

A. Planning & Budget Committee

Chairperson Lopez reported that Catherine Hennessy, Vice President for Financial Affairs and Treasurer gave a presentation at the last Planning and Budget Committee regarding the financial condition of the University and the financial report that was given by Dr. Howard Bunsis at a recent AAUP meeting. All members of the faculty were invited to attend and ask questions. The committee will meet again in May. The Parking Task Force will be meeting on April 24th. Provost Berliner noted that the presentation was the most detailed briefing that has ever been given to the Planning and Budget Committee and is an important step forward.

B. Faculty Affairs Committee

Chairperson Giuliani reported that the next Faculty Affairs Committee meeting is on Monday, April 22nd at 12:15pm. The committee is prepared to present the Dean's Evaluation which will be presented at the next faculty meeting. It was tabled at the last faculty meeting in March. The committee is also working on an evaluation of chairpersons and should have it finished by the end of the semester. The committee is also involved in a very detailed discussion on adjunct representation.

C. Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Fritz reported that the committee completed their resolution on the NR grade and its impact on the Completion Ratio. The committee voted unanimously to eliminate NRs from the completion ratio calculation for the purposes of determining academic probation for failure to meet completion ratio requirements. The committee also decided to continue to monitor the NR situation on campus by requesting the Academic Records run periodic reports that may help to identify ways to reduce the application of NRs on campus. Prof. Fritz also reported that the committee passed the conflict of interest policy (that was inserted into the recommendation for Academic Credit for Significant Leadership and Service Positions On-Campus.)

D. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Davidow reported that the revisions to Faculty Policy Series #11G - (Procedures of Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Graduate Students at Hofstra University) was tabled at the last faculty meeting and therefore will be vote on at the May faculty meeting. The committee will

be discussing what they intend to do with regard to creating a professional development series for faculty to promote competency and sensitivity to issues of diversity. A theme came up at their last meeting that graduate students need to be better informed about campus-related activities and policies, so the committee will discuss different ways they can get out this information.

E. Student Affairs Committee

Chairperson Cordero-Rubinos reported that at the last Student Affairs Committee meeting, Dean Libman reported that Student Affairs is providing a proposal to Vice President Johnson, (Vice President of Student Affairs) to take a portion of Student Activities fee from the Graduate Student fund in order to provide Programming, Sports Clubs, and other activities on campus. The committee also discussed the Course and Teacher Ratings (CTRs) and their effectiveness and whether there should be one done mid-semester. The committee also discussed Lackman and their meal plans, which was a long discussion that came out of the Town Hall Meeting, as well as the recommendation to install a traffic signal on California Avenue that was passed by the full faculty last year. The committee believes this is a huge safety risk. Mr. Cordero-Rubinos also reported that the SGA President, Ron Singh, mentioned creating a proposal to create a connection between SGA and University Senate.

IV. New Business

There was no new business.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35p.m.