

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, APRIL 16, 2012
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Bass, Bergemann, Berliner, Brown, Davidow, Elkis-Abuhoff, Finnegan, Firestone, Fritz, Gennarelli, Giebel, Giuliani, Glasser, Hewitt, Johnson, Kamberova, Lightfoot, Lopez, Sample, Schmelkin, Venuti,

Absent: Balson, Bhogal, Eads, Gambord, Jacobi, Macy, Meredith, Moghadam, Papper, Perry, Pillaipakkammatt, Sarno, Zuniga

Guests: Dougherty

The minutes of the March 12, 2012 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

I. Report of the Provost, Herman Berliner

Provost Berliner convened the meeting by reminding everyone that the spring 2012 Faculty Lecture Series presentation will be on Wednesday, April 18th during common hour. Leslie Feldman, from the Department of Political Science, is presenting the lecture, "Spaceships and Politics: Lessons from The Twilight Zone," based on her 2010 book, "Spaceships and Politics: The Political Theory of Rod Serling."

The Provost reported that the Teacher of the Year recipients for this academic year have been decided. Teachers of the Year are selected by current, graduating students in each school and it is an enormously important honor. The teachers will be recognized at the annual Hofstra Gala and will be honored again at Hofstra's Spring Commencement activities. At the present time in the Senate, there are four previous recipients, Stuart Bass, Bernard Firestone, Bob Papper, and Elizabeth Venuti, plus one of this year's winners.

The Provost reported that the search for the Dean for Engineering and Applied Sciences is reaching its conclusion. The committee, which consists of six faculty members, four trustees and three administrators, have reached a consensus in terms of the best candidate. In addition, searches are about to begin for a dean for the School of Law and a dean for the School of Education.

The Provost reported that the Anniversary Awards Dinner, which is for individuals who have served Hofstra for over 10 years, is being held on Tuesday, April 17th. Among the recipients are:

- Ron Alvarez, Department of Engineering has been at Hofstra for 50 years
- Barry Berman, Department of Marketing & International Business, has been at Hofstra for 45 years
- William Metlay, Department of Psychology, has been at Hofstra for 45 years
- Stuart Rabinowitz has been at Hofstra for 40 years.

This dinner is recognition and acknowledgement of a job well done for its recipients and reinforces the sense of the Hofstra community.

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Chairperson Stuart Bass

Prof. Bass reported that he, along with Paul Fritz, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee and Etana Jacobi, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, will be meeting with Alan Kelly, Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs, to discuss potential scholarship money that can be secured through the Development office, for outstanding student leaders at the higher echelon level. Prof. Bass will discuss which student leaders are eligible with Sandra Johnson, Vice President for Student Affairs, and other appropriate administrators.

Action Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for action the 2014-2015 Academic Calendar. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin briefly summarized the highlights of the calendar and the item was passed unanimously. She reminded the Senate that as a result of a survey about the academic calendar, it was decided that if possible, we would try to have Spring Break in towards the end of March. In the Spring 2015 calendar, spring break will be at the beginning of April, because the holy holidays fall so early. The item passed unanimously.

Information Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for information the revisions to the Probation Standards and the Cumulative Grade Point Average.

III. Committee Reports

A. Planning & Budget Committee

Chairperson Venuti reported that the Town Hall Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 28th. The Planning and Budget Committee will now take the comments that they received from students and see if any would be appropriate for next year's committee agenda. This Thursday, the committee will receive a detail report from each of the Planning and Budget subcommittees, the Academic Computing Committee, the Library Committee and the Environmental Priorities Committee. Prof Venuti also reported that the Planning and Budget Committee will also meet next week to go over the Provost's Five-year plan with members from the Senate Executive Committee.

B. Faculty Affairs Committee

Chairperson Giuliani reported that the committee has been working very hard on the guidelines for evaluation for deans and chairs. The committee has been looking at a number of other universities and their guidelines and has put together a draft which is currently being reviewed. Prof. Giuliani reported that he has a concern over certain emails and comments that he has received from various professionals involved. Prof Bass, chair of the Senate Executive Committee reported that during spring break there has been a flurry of emails and comments made by various individuals, some of whom, with respect to them and their positions, made some inflammatory remarks and misrepresentations. The issue of evaluating administrators is a highly debatable, very sensitive area which is in the purview of the Faculty Affairs Committee and needs to be deliberated by the committee and brought to the Senate as a formal resolution. There is almost unanimous support that administrators, going up to the Provost and the President, should be evaluated, and that these misrepresented remarks have made people concerned about the nature of the remarks and the political agenda that maybe being sought. Prof Bass commented that this is a community of ideas and whoever wishes to discuss the idea or criteria of evaluations is encouraged on a collegial and professional manner. To do anything less, would be unacceptable.

C. Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Fritz reported that the committee is still working on the issue of the possibility for students to receive academic credit for significant on-campus service and will be drafting a resolution for their next meeting. He also reported that since the faculty passed the recommendations from the Task Force for Academic Integrity at their last meeting, the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee is working on revising Faculty Policy Series #11 - Procedures of Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Undergraduate Students at Hofstra University, making it consistent with the recommendations.

D. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Caroline Schreiner reported for Chairperson Lightfoot that the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee has not met since March 9. A regularly scheduled meeting during the 2nd week of the month was not possible during April because of spring break. The next meeting is now scheduled for this Friday April 20. The spring 2012 agenda has been devoted to planning a faculty professional development series designed to improve faculty's level of sensitivity, awareness and competence around diversity issues inside and outside of the classroom. Several units across campus attended the last GAAC meeting to contribute to the Faculty Professional Development Series planning efforts. These units included representatives from the Center for Teaching and Scholarly Excellence (CTSE), Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC), Multicultural and International Student Programs Office (MISPO), Center for Civic Engagement (CCE), Hofstra Cultural Center (HCC), Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) and the Graduate Directors. The Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, of course, already includes representatives from various academic and administrative departments throughout the university. The committee is confident that with such a broad spectrum of ideas and interests, we can work towards building a structure through which new and veteran faculty can embrace institutional diversity.

E. Student Affairs Committee

Caroline Schreiner reported for Chairperson Jacobi that after debriefing the Town Hall Meeting, the Student Affairs Committee began drafting a resolution for a new Town Hall framework. They hope to have the resolution ready for the last meeting of the semester. It will include recommendations for the implementation of a State of the University, in which the President addresses the entire Hofstra community at the start of the second semester each year. The committee hopes to collaborate with the School of Communications and host a press conference following the address, utilizing students' skills to promote civic engagement (ie. having film /tv production students film the event, WRHU and Chronicle reporters conduct interviews, etc.) The committee will also recommend having two Town Halls in the traditional format, one per semester with the first concerning non-academic concerns, the latter for academic concerns. Finally, the committee is recommending additional break out forums to discuss hot issue topics that come out of the Town Hall meetings and the virtual suggestion box.

The Chronicle recently reported that students are still not satisfied with the advertisement and enforcement of the smoking policy and we are drafting a resolution now about addressing those concerns.

The Student Affairs Committee is currently accepting applications for next year's senate so Ms. Jacobi urges faculty members to please reach out to any and all students they think may be interested. Ms. Jacobi will be outside of Axinn Library tomorrow from 10-2 to answer questions about the University Senate and the application process.

IV. New Business

There was no new business.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:32p.m.