

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, APRIL 27, 2020
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Abraham, Berliner, Burnett, Caniano, Ciani, Craig, Dimes, Dippel, Dougharty, Eads, Eliot, Elkis-Abuhoff, Ghorayeb, Harb, Hernandez, Houck, Huang, Lopez, Lotier, Lynch, McElroy, Mercado, Ortiz-Jimenez, Schlegel, Seirup, Sunik, Tarson, Tompkins, Wallace

Absent: Boston-Hill, Chun, Crofts, Donefer, Harley, Heiss, Rose

Guests: Giuliani, Ploran, St. Leger

I. Report of the Provost, Provost, Herman Berliner

The Provost reported that the students want to have an in-person graduation ceremony that is scheduled for August 23. For now, there will be an event, or series of events around May 17, and we will try to make it as memorable as it can be. It was thought to have the in-person ceremony in the stadium, it is not a favorite location, but it will give us the social distancing that we are looking for.

The Provost reported that this semester, with everything everyone is going through, it is tremendous testimony to the entire Hofstra community. The faculty, in less than two weeks, to be teaching their courses remotely, the students having moved out of their residence halls with very little notice. We all adjusted and that is, a testimony to the quality of the Hofstra community, our ability to adapt to change, and our ability to keep moving forward. It shows that as a community, we do very well. The Provost reported that looking forward we're visiting recruiting the class that will start in September. It will be the first time that we're recruiting a class virtually because there were only a limited number of in person events and then the total switch the virtual teaching. The Office of Admissions has been continuously busy, trying to do everything they can to establish that connection with future students and to demonstrate to them without there being on campus or being able to talk face to face with a faculty member in person, that this is a terrific place that provides an outstanding education.

The Provost reported that the big question is what about the fall semester, and whether or not we will be in-person or remote. He thinks we will be able to start in person, and hopes that we can finish the fall semester in person. Also, how all the pieces will fit together in terms of the new normal of being in person really remains to be seen, we're just at the starting point of trying to answer all the questions of how we can make social distance and in person with our classes in our classroom facilities and everything that goes on a college campus. He is confident that we will be able to do it, and do it well.

W. Houston Dougharty, Vice President for Student Affairs, added that they did receive overwhelming feedback, through a survey done by the Department of Institutional Research, from those who are graduating, both graduate and undergraduate students, that having something in person was a high priority to them. He hopes that we can accommodate them in August. The Provost mentioned that if we're unable to do it in August, we will try and add a second or third December commencement.

Jessica Eads, Vice President for Enrollment Management, reported that like many of our peers, they decided to push the enrollment deadline from May 1 to June 1, and they do believe that the recruitment cycle will continue all the way through until the first day of classes. She reported that there is another host of events that are going to be going out to various deans and faculty to assist with, but virtual events will be added as well as in-person events, hopefully, all the way

through to August. Unlike in years past where the end of this week at least kind of signal where we would be, there's no way that's going to happen this year. Unfortunately, this will be a very long season.

She also reported that the plan is right now for the orientation program to be virtual. Vice President Dougharty reported that they are still planning on having eight sessions and having them be three days long. However, there won't be any in person parts to it, and they will start at noon each day because we need to be conscience of people in different time zones as we head west.

II. The February 10, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Report of the Senate Executive Committee, William Caniano

1. Prof. Caniano presented for action the 100% Smoking-Free and Tobacco-Free Campus Policy. The item was passed unanimously and will be voted on by the full faculty at its next meeting.
2. Prof. Caniano presented for action the Environmental Priorities Committee Survey. The item was passed unanimously and will be voted on by the full faculty at its next meeting.

George Giuliani, Speaker of the Faculty, reported that there will be a May full faculty meeting, but towards the end of May. The Provost would like to wait a couple of weeks, until we have more answers regarding the fall semester. Nothing that was voted on today will be voted on at that faculty meeting, and will be moved to the first meeting in the fall.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. David Harb, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee discussed the fall contingency plan and the 2021-2022 Academic Calendars from the Academic Calendar Committee. He also reported that they have extended the elections for University Senate student senators one week. Applications from students are now due to the Senate Office on April 30. The undergraduate elections will be held on May 4 and 5, and the graduate and law school student elections will be held on May 6 and 7.
- B. Christopher Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee passed a revision of Faculty Policy Series #11G - Procedures for Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Undergraduate Students at Hofstra University. The committee's work here was reviewing a number of suggestions made by a variety of other parties, as well as adding a few stream lighting and efficiency updates. This will come to the University Senate at its next meeting in May. He also reported that the committee worked on an item given to them by the Provost's Office before the current situation, which is a review of our online instruction standards and the guidelines that faculty have for offering courses online. They have focused this task on reviewing the universal design for learning modules that are presented in each of our Blackboard courses, and also reviewing the model courses that are provided for faculty by Ed Tech. He asks if anyone has other things the committee ought to take a look at to prioritize for that review, please pass them on. He reported that the committee spent the entirety of their last meeting thinking about problems due to the disruptions specifically as they affect graduate students and graduate courses, and offered some advice and recommendations about the ways that practicum requirements and lab

courses might be affected, thinking about what alternative arrangements might be found. Also discussed were difficulties that might face international students who find themselves unable to return in the fall and international students newly admitted who might not be able to join the university until later.

- C. Prof McElroy reported for Michael Heiss, who is the interim chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee. The committee was charged with considering everything and anything that could affect the faculty for the fall and taking into consideration a full semester of online classes, perhaps a mixed semester. Prof. Schlegel reported that Prof. Heiss did really good research looking into a couple of other schools, would they are doing. She reported that it was a really generous discussion, and the committee feels they need a little bit more time in consolidating and seeing where it goes, see what other practices around the country will do.
- D. Craig Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee met twice in the last two weeks. Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations, attend a meeting discussing the state of the campus, everything is going as well as can be expected, there are still about 125 students still on campus, receiving services and support systems are in place. The renovation of CV Starr continues and should be finished by its deadline which was mandated by a grant to be this summer. They're seeking an exemption from Weller Hall. All other projects are currently on hold. The committee also brainstormed some ideas on how to deal with COVID-19 and passed that along. At their other meeting, the committee spoke with Provost Berliner, Catherine Hennessy, Senior Vice President for Financial Affairs and Treasurer and Dolores Fredrich, Senior Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel regarding the university's budget. It is almost too complicated right now to have a definitive answer, and too many variables at play, such as what is the government going to allow the university to do. What is clear is that we will be running a deficit with the range currently unknown, but if we don't come back in the fall, it is highly likely the deficit will be exacerbated by that. Upper administration is running a lot of scenarios about what this looks like with 10% loss of revenue or 20%. Nothing can be said for certain what it will be.
- E. Prof. Lopez reported for Kevin Boston-Hill, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee. The committee discussed the impact of having the mid-semester reports and were looking at the raw data and preparing a report to provide to send it eventually to the full faculty. There have been some minor, but noticeable improvements with regard to the performance of students after the mid-semester grades were imposed, as opposed to before.

A discussion followed about summer session. Margaret Abraham, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, reported that summer session I will be online, and II and III will be primarily remote, but there are going to be some options for in-person, depending on what happens. Prof. Houck reported that in the Hofstra Northwell School of Graduate Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies, there will be a number of labs that need to be done in person, one is scheduled for July 9 in one of Northwell's sites. More discussion followed. Vice President Eads reported that they are watching this very closely and waiting for guidance from the state, as soon as they receive that, we will absolutely notify everybody involved.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.