

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, May 4th, 2015
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Arango, Balson, Bass, Berliner, Curtiss, Davidow, DiMartino, Dougharty, Dresner, Eads, Elsey, Elston, Espinal, Filippi, Gennarelli, Ghorayeb, Giuliani, Goodman, Guarino, Herold, Hoover, Laggan, Lopez, Maccarrone, McGinnis, Mehta, Miller, Nirode, Persky, Sample, Sarcka, Silver, Wallace

Absent: Atkinson, Fincham, Firestone, Glasser, Jernigan, Lucito, Morales, Olson,

Guests: Catalano, Dolan, Martorella, Mazzocco, Watcher, Weisel

The minutes of the April 13th, 2015 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

I. Report of the Provost, Provost Herman Berliner

Provost Berliner convened the meeting by reported that his first experience with governance was as a Senator At-Large on the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee and from that moment on, he has had tremendous respect for the effective of shared governance and all the important work that is done through shared governance. He went on to comment that the University Senate is hugely important to Hofstra University and he appreciates everyone participating as fully as they do on the Senate and it has been a tremendous honor for him to chair the Senate and knows it will continue to do good work.

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Stuart Bass
Information Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for information the 2016-2017 Academic Calendar. Pending the results of a survey that will be sent out to all constituencies on campus, it will be brought back as an action item.

Action Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for action the University Senate Budget Allocations proposal, spearheaded by the Student Affairs Committee. Jared Sarcka, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that this resolution is for the committee to appropriate funds from the University Senate budget and act as a co-sponsor for events that promote student success/retention; as well as ones that exemplify Hofstra's Pride Principles. The item passed unanimously.
2. Prof. Bass presented for action the Town Hall Mission Statement from the Planning and Budget Committee. Eugene Maccarrone, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that this mission statement was an idea from Senator Marc Silver last spring that we institutionalize what has existed for many years. It is essentially designed to clarify the way student Town Hall Meetings shall be run. For example, it should be convened at least once per academic year, in the Spring semester, and include a time period at least encompassing the Wednesday Common Hour (11:15 am to 12:45 pm) during which all of the said senior members of the Hofstra University administration, including the university President and Provost, other senior and area administrators, and other members of the community (other than Hofstra's Board of Trustees) having involvement with university governance matters affecting students are in attendance. It should also be student initiated, student promoted and student moderated with the cooperation of the administration through the Vice President for Student Affairs, as well as the

Planning and Budget Committee. A discussion followed about the possibility of having one in each semester. Prof. Maccarrone reported that the reality of having the kind of success the Senate had in the past few years, is largely dependent on people committing the time it takes, and with so much going on, around campus, it might not be well attended if we were to dilute it. Prof. Silver noted that the language does include “at least once per academic year,” which sets a minimum, and keeps the door open for a chance of two a year. The item passed unanimously.

3. Prof. Bass presented for action, revisions to the Special Committee on Recruitment, Elections and Nominations (SCREAN) Bylaws. This revision allows for the Senior Support Specialist of the Senate (currently Caroline Schreiner) to serve as chair. Gloria Hoover, the Local 153 Staff Senator reported that she would like one staff member be included (which was deleted with the revision) and reworded as follows:

one staff member, (the Senior Support Specialist who shall chair the committee,)

The item passed as amended.

III. Committee Reports

- A. Marc Silver, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee has been looking at the role of UNIV 001 as an online offering for “at-risk” undergraduate students and at this stage is pursuing an additional data collection with the help of Academic Records to look for signs of effectiveness of this online experience. While this process is undergoing, the committee has authorized the Academic Review Committee to use its judgment and discretion in terms of when individual students have not complied with UNIV 001. Prof. Silver also reported that the committee continue work on mid semester grades. The Committee undertook a survey of comparable/competitive/aspirant institutions to assess common best practices. The survey revealed that most all such institutions have some form of interim grade reporting and Hofstra seems to be behind the curve when it comes to keeping students up to date about progress. The Committee voted to endorse the concept of interim grade reporting and will recommend to the Senate a set of new policies and procedures in the Fall 2015 semester. The committee also voted on the following:

the policy would apply to all regularly schedule undergraduate courses, and the scheme should be on the basis of a simple binary assessment of “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory,” which should yield a sufficient flag for at risk students and at the same time not necessarily lend itself to overconfidence of students who have done well in early grading activities.

the deadline for submitting mid semester grades would be the seventh week of the semester, however, the system for reporting grades would be available for instructors starting in the second week. This will allow instructors to “flag” at risk performance, if they so choose, that would allow other offices to intervene at the earliest possible moment.

The specific mechanism for reporting mid-semester grades is not yet determined, but will most likely run through the Banner system.

Prof. Silver noted that the committee focused for the most part on the academic advisability of instituting this sort of system. The implications for any one of these systems for matters relating to workload or other concerns about how it impacts faculty, would be taken up by the Faculty Affairs Committee.

- B. Jason Davidow, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee reported that at its last meeting, the committee continued its work reviewing Faculty Policy Series #36 – The Use of Human Subjects in Research, which deals with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and its procedures. The revisions were then brought to the IRB chair for input. He had some recommendations for the committee which they will review on Friday.
- C. Eugene Maccarrone, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee met on April 22, and most of that meeting was centered on the issue regarding the repurposing proposal for the 3rd floor of Axinn Library. The Library subcommittee has been working diligently on this matter since the end of January. The committee sent a survey out to the faculty and students and examined the results. A preliminary report is being worked on. Prof. Maccarrone also reported that the committee also discussed the parking and smoking issues on campus. A report was drafted and given to Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations. An adjustment to the shuttle route has already been completed. The “Scoot Shuttle” more directly transport members of the Hofstra community between North and South Campuses, as compared with the present perimeter shuttle around the entire campus, which is a time consuming trip. With regard to smoking, the committee is working on creating approximately six “smoking shelters,” which range between \$17,000.00 and \$20,000.00. Prof. Maccarrone also reported that the subcommittee on Academic Computing has elected Mahesh Chandra as its chair. Provost Berliner will attend the next Planning and Budget Committee to give a report on the academic operating budget of the university.
- D. James Sample, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee reported that the committee continued its work on revising its bylaws which includes representation from the new institutions on campus and voting privileges.

IV. New Business

There was no new business.

V. Adjournment

The 2014-2015 University Senate was adjourned at 4:33p.m. The Provost then asked the members of the 2015-2016 Senate to elect a chair for its committee. 2014-2015 chairs are as follows:

SEC	Eugene Maccarrone
UAAC	Marc Silver
GAAC	Jason Davidow
P & B	William Nirode
FAC	George Giuliani
SAC	Jared Sarcka