

**MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, MAY 6, 2020**  
**THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY**

Present: Abraham, Berliner, Boston-Hill, Caniano, Chun, Ciani, Craig, Crofts, Dimes, Dippel, Eads, Eliot, Elkis-Abuhoff, Ghorayeb, Harb, Heiss, Hernandez, Hirsch, Hoover, Houck, Huang, Lopez, Lotier, Lynch, McElroy, Mercado, Ortiz-Jimenez, Schlegel, Seirup, Sunik, Tarson, Wallace

Absent: Donefer, Dougharty, Harley, Rose, Tompkins

Guests: Daulatani, Distefano, Ewen, Giuliani, Gounelas, Jasterzenski, Kinney, Lee, Miller, Munson-Pritchard, Natow, Patokina, Ploran, Rigel, Sobel, Stark

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

**II. Report of the Provost, Provost, Herman Berliner**

The Provost reported that the Hofstra “virtual” Gala will be held on Thursday, May 7. The proceeds from this event will go to the support of the Hofstra Northwell School of Graduate Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies, especially Nursing scholarships and some of the startups for the new programs in the school.

Earlier today, a Presidential Town Hall Meeting was held for student leaders. Last week, a Town Hall Meeting was held for faculty. Both events were successful. The Provost commented that we have been very well served by President Rabinowitz, but now it makes for a real challenge to find the best person to lead us into the next chapter of Hofstra University.

The Provost reported that he was interviewed last Sunday in *Newsday* regarding the challenges of the deep recession together with the pandemic. As the interview was being concluded, the reporter asked him that based on his many years of experience, how did he think this pandemic compares with the 1918 Spanish Flu. He replied that “what is most challenging, is the uncertainty of this terrible virus. As a country, we count and likely undercount the devastating numbers of lives lost, and we see the steep toll on the economy and society. In our lifetime, there has never been an unemployment rate as high as what we are now approaching. We are less in control of our destiny and are dealing with the challenges of uncertainty.”

The Provost reported that this semester, thanks to excellent work of the faculty, and the nimbleness and cooperation of our students, we successfully transitioned at very short notice, from being primarily in-person, to remote teaching and learning. New York State had ordered and continues to order all schools in the state be closed until the end of this academic year, which may or may not mean until the end of June. College students were asked to leave their residence halls across the country. The university refunded students for the part of the semester where they were not in residence halls, and for unused meal points. The total amount was approximately \$12,000,000.00. The university received \$6,000,000.00 from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Half of that amount was required to pass directly to students, with the greatest economic need, to meet needs caused by the Coronavirus. Even if the students will no longer be Hofstra students, they were still entitled to the money. The other half, once received, will partially offset the expenses the university incurred. We returned \$12,000,000.00 in room and board, and hope to recoup

\$3,000,000.00 back through our share of the CARES Act. This is in addition to all of the other lost revenue the university needs to account for:

- reduced summer school tuition, room and board
- almost no summer facility rentals at this point.
- summer camp,
  - attendance will be greatly reduced if it is opened at all
- greatly reduced fundraising
- loses on the endowment
  - the stock market went down

The Provost reported that Summer Session I will be entirely online, and most of the other summer sessions will also be remote, with some in-person classes if possible. These are classes which faculty believe are better taught in person, even though the learning goals could be achieved online. Residence halls may or may not be open during the summer, except for international students, and those students who have no other available housing. They will be configured as one person, per room, and there will also be reduced room density for at least the fall semester. This will cause a decline in revenue, but safety comes first. Registration for the summer is solid, but the final enrollment is not yet known.

Hofstra has the largest summer day camp on Long Island. Camps have now been classified as an essential industry because of the child care provided, but whether or not parents will register their kids, is uncertain. The camp uses buses to transport kids from home, how will social distancing work on a school bus, and what implications will it have on capacity? For example, if the 6ft. distance rule applies, will a bus be restricted to 1/3 it's capacity? Depending upon the regulations, the economics of summer camp will definitely be impacted.

The Provost reported that we also don't know with certainty what the fall enrollment will look like. In previous years, the deposit date for new students was May 1. It has been moved to June 1 because so many families have been disrupted by the Coronavirus and deep recession, and need more time to make a decision. A number of continuing students are also not yet registered. They, and new students and their families, want to know whether the fall semester classes will be in person, or taught remotely. We expect they will be taught in person, and are working hard for them to be, but it is uncertain at this time. The decision is not under our control. The metrics, however, for opening the Long Island economy, set by the state and based on the CDC guidelines, are really formidable. The formidable metrics include:

- 14 day decline in new infections.
- capacity to conduct 30 tests for 1000 residents.
- contact tracing
  - 30 per 100,000 residents.
- healthcare capacity
  - 30% of total hospital and intensive care unit beds are open and available
    - For the last decade or longer, hospitals have been reducing their beds and the emphasis has been on getting people home and not having

them in the hospital, so this seems unattainable for Long Island and most of New York

- 90 day supply of personal protective equipment

The priority for business reopening is as follows:

- First priority - construction and manufacturing
- second priority - professional services finance retail and real estate.
- third priority - restaurants, food services and hotels
- fourth priority - entertainment and education
  - Includes K-12 and higher education

The governor has already said that upstate will open first, given all the stats where the Coronavirus has been much more intensive, and the downstate area may be the last area to open.

The Provost reported that when the reopening happens, it will involve changing some structures and processes. The precise guidelines are not yet announced, but what is anticipated include:

- reduced density
- masks
- deep cleaning
- health screening
- tracing, tracking and reporting

The Provost noted that from the beginning of this pandemic/recession, he felt that communication and collaboration is key. He reported that he has been meeting every week with the shared governance leaders (Speaker of the Faculty, chair of the Senate Executive Committee, chair of the Chairs' Caucus, and the President of Hofstra's AAUP chapter). He has also been meeting weekly with the academic deans to discuss budget ramifications, and issues in general. Every other week, the Provost, along with the university's legal counsel, has been meeting with the President of Hofstra's AAUP chapter and their legal counsel.

The Provost said the following:

“We all need to work together to deal effectively with what's going on, we need to address the present situation for the common good now, and for the future. To deal successfully, what will be two of the most financially troubled years in the history of the university and none of this is because of things that we've done will require tremendous sacrifice from everyone, but we have to ensure our continued commitment to teaching, research, and service for the common good. There's no alternative. While these are uncertain times, I'm confident that we can do what needs to be done if we all cooperate and collaborate. Now that the priority order from New York State has been set, we are hoping to put plans in place for the future.”

The Provost reported that the students, especially the undergraduate students, have expressed that they strongly prefer that their education be in person. The university will adhere to all New York State guidelines and must plan for every eventuality. There also needs to be a plan for the resurgence of the Coronavirus sometime in the fall, as public health experts are reporting that it is likely to come back. To talk through these plans for all areas of the university going forward, President Rabinowitz has formed a steering committee that met for the first time this past Monday. The Provost has also formed a committee to report to the President's committee to make recommendations regarding how in person classes would work. There are several factors that need to be considered and put in place to make this new normal a reality that is conducive to ensure strong educational experience, and the safety and wellbeing for all. We will have to consider possibilities and processes seek input on structures and relations necessary to determine space, social distancing, models of teaching, safety, agility, and flexibility to accommodate change. Some important questions that need to be addressed include:

- how social distancing work in the classroom, labs and auditoriums
  - how would it work in the hallways in the entrances and exits during change of class time
- will everyone need to wear masks (the Provost assumed yes)
- how can we prevent crowding
- how can international students participate in classes when they may have difficulty getting to campus by the start of the fall classes
- what kind of flexibility plans and implementation needs to occur if we start in person and need to move to remote teaching and learning or vice versa.

To deal with these difficult questions, a new academic area committee was formed, which will begin meeting by next week:

- Margaret Abraham, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
- Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations
- Kevin Boston-Hill, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee
- William Caniano, chair of the Senate Executive Committee
- Steve Fabiani, Vice President for Digital Innovation and Technology
- George Giuliani, Speaker of the Faculty
- Evan Koegl, Registrar and Director of Academic Records
- Janet Lenaghan, Dean of the Frank G. Zarb School of Business
- Dominique Outlaw, Associate Professor of Finance
- Anthony Santella, Associate Professor of Health Professions
- Daniel Seabold, Associate Professor of Mathematics
- Kathleen Wallace, Professor and chair of Philosophy
- Patricia Welch, Professor of Comparative Literature, Language and Linguistics

### **III. Report of the Senate Executive Committee, William Caniano**

Prof. Caniano congratulated Kaylor Dimes, who recently won “Junior of the Year.” He also welcomed the newly elected faculty and student senators for the 2020-2021 academic year:

- Daniel Miller, School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics
- Dimitrios Gounelas, Adjunct, School of Health Professions and Human Services
- Brian McFadden, Lawrence Herbert School of Communication
- Kaylor Dimes, undergraduate student
- Rocco Distefano, undergraduate student
- Mercedes Jasterzenski, undergraduate student
- Gisselle Ortiz-Jimenez, undergraduate student
- April Kinney, graduate student

#### **Action Items**

1. Prof. Caniano presented for action the revisions to Faculty Policy Series #11 - Procedures for Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Undergraduate Students at Hofstra University. The item passed unanimously.
2. Prof. Caniano presented for action the revisions to Faculty Policy Series #11G - Procedures for Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Undergraduate Students at Hofstra University. The item passed unanimously.

### **IV. New Business**

Prof. Caniano presented for discussion a resolution from the Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Science:

*The Faculty of HCLAS acknowledges the dire circumstances we are in as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to plan judiciously for the next academic year. We recognize that these plans must take into account both the health of the entire Hofstra Community as well as fiscal constraints. Faculty and Chairs have communicated suggestions and ideas forward through faculty leadership and other avenues. However, we have received no communication from the senior administrative task force about its process, planning consideration and criteria, or timetable. We request that the University more immediately provide transparency in the process by which they are planning for the future, welcome our active participation in the decision-making process, and establish and communicate a timetable for making decisions.*

Provost Berliner reported that from the start of the Coronavirus situation, he has provided input, feedback, communication to all the constituencies that are under the academic area and will continue to do so. He doesn't feel there is a need for this. A discussion followed. Prof. Caniano moved the item to action for the University Senate to support this resolution. The item passed with 7 opposed.

## **V. Committee Reports**

- A. Christopher Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that in addition to passing the revision of Faculty Policy Series #11G - Procedures for Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Undergraduate Students at Hofstra University, the committee discussed labs and practicums as well as the problems international students might face, given the disruption. The committee is now focused on the guidance that the university offers, in particular what Educational Technology offers for online instruction, so the committee has been reviewing the “teach to all learners” universal design for learning modules that the university provides to consider the quality of that guidance and whether it is sufficient. The committee met with Cornell Craig, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, to discuss the diversity statement initiatives and will be reviewing that statement as it is available.
- B. Michael Heiss, interim chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee primarily discussed the university’s possible contingency plans and what other schools have been doing. He reported their findings to the Senate Executive Committee.
- C. David Harb, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee will hold its final meeting on May 12. He stated that it has been a pleasure working with everyone on the Senate and a great learning opportunity. He appreciates everyone’s time.
- D. Craig Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, thanked his committee for all their hard work this year.
- E. Kevin Boston-Hill, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee has been reviewing the impact of having the mid-semester advisory. Based on what they found from the research that was done, those students that have been identified being “at risk” through the advisories have been able to improve their grades. So there has been a reduction in the number of D’s, F’s and W’s as a result of the usage of the mid-semester advisories. The committee is looking to see how they can expand the usage across campus. A formal report will be created and sent out.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The 2019-2020 University Senate was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The Provost then asked the members of the 2020-2021 Senate to elect a chair for its committee. 2020-2021 chairs are as follows:

- UAAC      Kevin Boston-Hill
- GAAC      Christopher Eliot
- P&B      Craig Burnett
- FAC      Rina Hirsch - Fall, Michael Heiss - Spring
- SAC      Kaylor Dimes

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.