

**MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, MAY 7, 2012**  
**THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY**

Present: Bass, Bergemann, Berliner, Bhogal, Cordero-Rubinos, Davidow, Eads, Elkis-Abuhoff, Finnegan, Fritz, Gennarelli, Gianarkis, Giebel, Giuliani, Glasser, Jacobi, Lightfoot, Lopez, Macy, Mandel, Papper B., Papper, C., Schmelkin, Venuti,

Absent: Balson, Brown, Firestone, Gambord, Hewitt, Johnson, Kamberova, Meredith, Moghadam, Pillaipakkamnatt, Zuniga

Guests: Nirode

The minutes of the April 16, 2012 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

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

The Provost convened the meeting by reporting that the Teacher of the Year recipients, which were recognized at the annual Hofstra Gala, are as followed:

- Charles McMellon Zarb School, Marketing and International Business
- Susan Yohn HCLAS, History
- Kristal Zook School of Communication, Journalism, Media Studies and Public Relations
- Judith Kaufman School of Education, Teaching, Literacy and Leadership
- James Sample Law School

Each spring, members of Hofstra's current academic graduating classes help select the faculty members from each school and college who will receive the annual Teacher of the Year awards. The official awarding will take place at Spring Commencement activities and the Teacher of the Year award is a tremendous honor and tremendous achievement for the recipient.

The Provost reported that the Hofstra Gala was held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and raised one million dollars which will be used primarily for undergraduate scholarships. The Gala honored Robert & Florence Kaufman, generous benefactors for the university.

The Provost reported that spring commencement will take place on Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and the speakers are as followed:

- **11 a.m. Undergraduate Ceremony**  
Leslie Moonves, president and chief executive officer of CBS Corporation
- **3:30 p.m. Graduate Ceremony**  
Dr. Douglas Brinkley, historian, author and professor  
Dr. Brinkley taught American Arts and Politics at Hofstra in the early 1990's. His course was spent on a bus travelling across the United States, studying its history and culture. From this course emerged the book, *The Majic Bus: An American Odyssey*. His new book, a biography about Walter Cronkite, will become public on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

- **7:30 p.m. Maurice A. Deane School of Law Ceremony**

Jonathan Lippman, appointed in 2007 as the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Justice of New York and appointed in 2009 as the Chief Judge, New York State Court of Appeals

The Provost reported that the Presidential Debate will be held on campus on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The University will again host an election-themed event series leading up to and following the debate, making this a fully textured and fascinating educational experience for our students and community.

This semester, the following speakers have been on campus:

- Cory Booker, Newark Mayor
- Wolf Blitzer, anchor of CNN's The Situation Room
- Julian Bond, former NAACP Chairman of the Board and professor of history at the University of Virginia
- Woodward & Bernstein, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists

Next semester:

- Jeb Bush, Former Governor of Florida
- Christina Romer, Economist

At the 2008 Debate festivities, the university held a fascinating event called "Democracy in Performance." These were professional living history performers and scholars who reenacted a series of historical vignettes that highlight key moments in our nation's story. The university will once again hold this performance the day before the 2012 debate.

The Provost reported that through the hard work of Michael D'Innocenzo and the Center for Civic Engagement, twenty of our students will become facilitators for discussions on key issues confronting the country and the globe. These discussions will take place in High Schools, Libraries, etc.

The Provost also reported that once again, the university will also have a series of course that tie into the 2012 debate and election. They include:

- Mathematical Excursions taught by Daniel Seabold, Department of Mathematics  
"As Tom Stoppard wrote, "It's not the voting that's democracy, it's the counting." When we count one hundred million votes to choose a president, or a thousand votes to choose a town council member, the outcome of the election may depend on what methods we use. In this course on the mathematics of democracy, we examine the apportionment of the Electoral College and the relative power of individual states to affect the presidential election, and we weigh the benefits of alternate voting systems such as preference balloting and cumulative voting."
- Seminar in American Politics: Race for the Presidency, Meena Bose and Richard Himelfarb from the Department of Political Science and Ed Rollins, Kalikow Center Senior Presidential Fellow
- Religion & the Media -- "I'm Voting for God:" Religion and the 2012, Hussein Rashid, Department of Religion  
"The wall between church and state can get thin on the election trail; candidates are constantly invoking religion in obvious and subtle ways. The course will look at the ways in which

religious discourse shapes the presidential election. Specifically, we will look at islamophobia, homophobia, and christianism. The first part of the course will look at events as they unfold, from television, Twitter, blogs, and magazine articles. After the election, we will focus on the historical context of many of the cultural debates, from the Know-Nothings to Park 51.”

- Social Media and the Presidential Debate, Kelly Fincham, Department of Journalism, Media Studies, Public Relations  
“the 2012 Presidential election is widely considered the first social media election where platforms like Twitter and Facebook will have arguably as much influence as television in electing the next President of the United States.”
- Public Relations and the Presidency, Jeff Morosoff Department of Journalism, Media Studies, Public Relations
- Political Advertising, Paulette Brinka, Department of Speech Communication and Rhetorical Studies

The Provost reported that this summer, Weed Hall, will be fully renovated and will become the home of the new School of Engineering and Applied Science.

The Provost also reported that the university has received a one-million-dollar grant from New York States to build a Bioengineering lab in the renovated Weed Hall.

The Provost acknowledged the following faculty who are retiring at the end of the year:

- Charles H. Forsberg, Department of Engineering
- Vincent J. Guarnaccia, Department of Psychology
- Fatemah Moghadam, Department of Economics
- Larry Russell, Department of Speech Communication and Rhetorical Studies
- Ron Silverman, School of Law
- Stephan Waner, Department of Economics
- Lou Kern, Department of History

## **II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Chairperson Stuart Bass**

### **Action Items**

1. Prof. Bass presented for action the Resolution to Increase Funding to Maintain and Update Classroom Technology. Prof. Venuti, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the Academic Computing subcommittee of Planning and Budget, along with other groups on campus have been doing a yearlong analysis of the technology resources. As a result, they have presented this item to her committee and decided to pass a resolution to increase funding by \$300,000 annually, as calculated by University Information Technology, to properly maintain and upgrade technology in our existing one hundred and fifty classrooms. Provost Berliner reported that the President has approved a program to update the technology in all classrooms that currently have technology. This will take place during the summer months. In addition, the administration has identified 40 additional general-purpose classrooms that will be modified with technology within the next three

years, starting with 11 additional classrooms this summer. In addition, the President has approved a maintenance fund that will allow for replacement of items such as computers, and projectors on a regular schedule. The departmental labs will also be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. This was an effort that came from various directions, the chairs' caucus, and the Academic Computing Committee to resolve a major problem on campus. Provost Berliner is glad to report that even before this resolution is presented to the President, he has already taken action and has done what is necessary to update technology on this campus. Grammatical amendments were made, and the item was passed unanimously as amended.

### **III. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Planning & Budget Committee**

Chairperson Venuti reported that at their last meeting, the Planning and Budget Committee received updates from their three subcommittees, the Academic Computing Committee, the Library Committee, and the Environmental Priorities Committee. The Library committee gave the Planning and Budget Committee an updated status of the Library Report that was passed through the full faculty in December 2010. There has been progress made though some things haven't been done due to budgets. For the most part they are making headway on achieving the goals laid out in the report. Provost Berliner suggested taking a fresh look at the report and possibly update it as technology changes so rapidly.

Prof. Venuti also reported that the Environmental Priorities Committee is working on various initiatives and have assisted on the hiring of someone in the Plant Department who deals with making "green" initiatives. From their report, the Planning and Budget Committee has learned that Hofstra's campus is in fact very "green" and the committee discussed ways to get the word out to the community via the campus website and monitors. She also reported that Robert Brinkmann, Professor of Global Studies and Geography and Director of Sustainability Studies, will be chairing the committee. Prof. Venuti commented that the Planning and Budget Committee should be able to get the initiatives of the Environmental Priorities Committee moving faster such as being able to broadcast Hofstra's accomplishments which is very important as we try to attract new students.

#### **B. Faculty Affairs Committee**

Chairperson Giuliani reported that the committee will continue working on guidelines for evaluation for deans and chairs and finalizing recommendations for uploading items to blackboard for tenure and promotion.

#### **C. Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee**

Chairperson Fritz reported that the committee has passed two resolutions at their last meeting which will be coming to the Senate in the fall.

A recommendation for students to receive academic credit for significant on-campus service and minor revisions of Faculty Policy Series #11 - Procedures of Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Undergraduate Students at Hofstra University, making it consistent with the recommendations from the Task Force for Academic Integrity that was passed at the last faculty meeting.

D. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Lightfoot reported that the committee reviewed the data they collected from the meeting where representatives from various groups on campus (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) to help plan the professional development series for faculty to promote competency and sensitivity to issues of diversity. Much of the time was spent discussing how faculty would respond to these series and what kind of incentives we can offer to encourage them to participate in professional development, particularly around issues of diversity without having to institute mandates. They discussed how K-12 teachers have much more comprehensive preparation to enter their classrooms than professors have entering theirs. Most of the time K-12 teachers have courses in methodology, foundations and multiculturalism whereas in higher education don't often.

E. Student Affairs Committee

Chairperson Jacobi congratulated the newly elected student senators and appointed senators-at-large and reported that this year was the most robust student election in the history of the Student Affairs Committee. She also reported the Student Affairs Committee is currently working on preliminary discussions for faculty and trusteeships so if anyone is interested in pursuing a conversation on the topic she welcomes them to reach out to her. She reported that she has had preliminary conversations with the two student trustees from Cornell University and talked about a lot of the sensitive issues that came up in their discussions and what would happen if students sat on the Board of Trustees at Hofstra.

**IV. New Business**

Provost Berliner reported that as of September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, the new School of Engineering and Applied Science will be officially implemented, and we will need to have a seat on the University Senate for this school. There will need to be a discussion whether or not this will be an additional senator or one that comes out of HCLAS. For the time being we may ask for a representative to attend Senate meetings as an observer from the school and not change the composition of the Senate. After that, we will need to discuss the new School of Health and Human Services (the name has not yet been established) and will require a representative from there as well.

**V. Adjournment**

The 2011-2012 was adjourned at 3:33p.m. The Provost then asked the members of the 2012-2013 Senate to elect a chair for their committee. The chairs are as followed:

- SEC        Stuart Bass
- GAAC      Jason Davidow
- UAAC      Victor Lopez, until Paul Fritz returns from sabbatical in the spring
- P & B      Elizabeth Venuti
- FAC        George Giuliani
- SAC        Kenny Cordero-Rubinos

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45p.m.

