

## MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

### THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Balson, Bass, Bergemann, Bhogal, Cordero-Rubinos, Davidow, Eads, Elkis-Abuhoff, Finnegan, Firestone, Flannery, Gennarelli, Giebel, Gianarkis, Giuliani, Glasser, Johnson, Kamberova, Liang, Lopez, Papper B., Papper, C., Sample, Schmelkin, Silver, Venuti

Absent: Berliner, Brown, Crosson, Goodman, Pillaipakkamnatt

Guests: Bohannon

The minutes of the May 7, 2012 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

#### **I. Report of the Provost, Liora Schmelkin, Senior Vice Provost.**

Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin convened the meeting for Provost Berliner. She reported that the Presidential Debate which will be held on October 16<sup>th</sup> and classes have been cancelled for that day. She urges everyone to arrive early to campus, as Hempstead Tpke will be closed for safety reasons. In addition, parking near the Mack Arena will also be closed. Security will be tighter than in 2008 because we will have a sitting president on campus. There will be various events leading up to the Debate, including Christina Romer, Former Chairperson of the White House Council of Economic Advisors for President Barack Obama, and Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush.

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

Prof. Bass reminded all senators that according to Faculty Statute VII, The University Senate:

*If an elected senator misses three meetings in one academic year of the Senate or of the committee to which the senator was assigned, the Senate Executive Committee has the right to declare that seat vacant and to appoint the individual receiving the next highest number of votes in the Senator's election, or, if that person is not available, to appoint another person from the same constituency to complete the senator's term.*

Prof Bass. also asks that if any senators are expecting to be granted a special leave, to please alert Caroline Schreiner, Senior Support Specialist of the University Senate so that the Senate Executive Committee can plan accordingly.

He also reported that following the Faculty Affairs Committee report which will include an update regarding the recommendations on evaluation of academic administrators, the committee will move

forward with creating recommendations for evaluating non-academic administrators, and the Senate Executive Committee hopes to see this completed by the end of the academic year.

#### A. Action Items

1. Prof. Bass presented for action the Revisions to Faculty Policy Series #11. Last year, the full faculty passed recommendations created by the Task Force on Integrity and Responsibility Report which included the addition of a new Honor Board to deal with academic honesty issues. Therefore, there is a slight modification of the language in Faculty Policy Series # 11 (Procedures for Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Undergraduate Students at Hofstra University). The item passed with one abstention. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin reported that Faculty Policy Series 11G (Procedures of Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Graduate Students at Hofstra University) will also be revised by the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee.
2. Prof. Bass presented for action a proposal for Academic Credit for Significant Leadership and Service Positions On-Campus. Prof. Bass clarified that this proposal is separate and apart from the University Senate's efforts to try and seek scholarship and other forms of financial support for students in key leadership positions. He went on to report that Alan Kelly, Vice President for Development and Alumni Affairs, is very receptive to the idea and has already made a commitment to look into certain resources that he feels would be appropriate. The action item is a separate issue onto itself, strictly a proposal to give academic credit such as an internship, to give additional experiential experience to students who are in those positions. The proposal lists examples of leadership and significant service positions on campus that may be eligible for academic credit but are not limited to these examples. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin reported that this is simply a motion to encourage students to think about some of what they may be involved in as a vehicle that could actually get academic credit but they still have to go through the Office of Off-Campus Education (OCE) and our academic review process in order to see whatever proposal is coming forth should receive academic credit and who will supervise it. Prof. Lopez added that OCE will not oversee this process, but simply facilitate it and they may send a student to the appropriate academic department to fulfill either the requirements through OCE or the guidelines set by the individual department. Prof. Silver reported concern about the potential for a conflict of interest. For example, students who are given credit for participating in

governance issues that bear upon faculty and various aspects of the university, are appointed to the same committee as the faculty member who will be supervising them. In this case, a student might feel pressure about the positions they take because they are going to be evaluated by a faculty member in the position to coerce or suggest positions. Prof. Silver requested that language be added to the proposal to preclude those eventualities. A discussion followed and it was decided that since there is a potential for this conflict to exist, the proposal will be tabled and sent back to the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee for revision.

### **III. Committee Reports**

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

Chairperson Venuti reported that the committee will take up the issue of a full smoking ban with the Student Affairs Committee and also be discussing an issue that was brought up by several faculty advisors and several student groups regarding allocations of monies to the Student Government Association (SGA) and how SGA appropriates to groups. Prof. Venuti also reported that the committee will oversee the parking task force and ensure that they are back up and running as well as revisiting some of the parking issues brought up at last year's Town Hall Meeting.

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

Chairperson Giuliani reported that the committee had a successful year last year, having accomplished all of its agenda items. The committee will work on the guidelines for evaluation for deans and chairs which is essentially two parts, the substance and the process. The committee has put together a strong draft but before bringing it to the next level, they need to have a discussion on how it will all operate such as who will administer the evaluations and what will happen to the results.

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

Chairperson Lopez reported that the committee has been reviewing the bylaws for the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee and will be updating them as necessary. The committee also had a lengthy discussion regarding the elimination of the Writing Proficiency Exam as a graduation requirement, which was presented as an action item to the full faculty in March, 2011. The original

proposal included language to shift the responsibility to enhance the written communication skills to the individual departments. The Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee will work on creating an acceptable proposal different from the current system.

#### D. Graduate Academic Affairs Committee

Chairperson Davidow reported that the committee will be working on changing the language in the graduate bulletin regarding the unofficial withdrawal as well as language regarding graduate degrees. In addition, they will be revising Faculty Policy Series #11G - (Procedures of Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Graduate Students at Hofstra University.) The committee will also be creating a document about recommendations to pursue a professional development series for faculty to promote competency and sensitivity to issues of diversity.

#### E. Student Affairs Committee

Chairperson Cordero-Rubinos reported that the Student Affairs Committee is looking forward to working with Planning and Budget Committee on the smoking ban resolution as well as the Parking Task Force.

### **IV. New Business**

Prof. Papper reported that he would like to see a university-wide committee created to address some of the issues faculty are having with international students such as issues and challenges on the academic side related to English preparation. Senior Vice Provost Schmelkin said the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee can work with the Graduate Directors and she will speak to Provost Berliner about whether or not to set up a separate committee. A slight discussion followed.

### **V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38p.m.