

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 21st, 2015
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Basile, Balson, Curtiss, Davidow, Dougharty, Dresner, Eads, Elston, Fincham, Firestone, Gallagher, Gennarelli, Ghorayeb, Giuliani, Glasser, Goodman, Herold, Hoover, Jernigan, Laggan, Maccarrone, Miller, Moskow, Munoz, Nirode, Persky, Sarcka, Silver, Simmons, Wallace

Absent: Elsey, Guarino, Pickering, Sampedro, Sample,

Guests: Bass, Mazzocco

The minutes of the May 4th, 2015 Senate meeting were unanimously approved.

I. Report of the Provost, Provost Gail Simmons

Provost Simmons convened the meeting by welcoming members to the first Senate meeting of the year and that she looks forward to working with everyone. She reported that undergraduate fall enrollments are strong, and that even though we are still seeing some challenges with graduate enrollment, there are still signs of a “turnaround,” particularly in new graduate enrollment within the School of Education. A lunch event had been held for the Graduate Nursing Program and the new Occupational Therapy Program.

The Provost reported that beginning this fall; Hofstra will be part of a cohort of the ACE Internationalization Laboratory, which is a guided self-study with support and consulting from the American Council on Education (ACE), the largest national organization that supports higher education in this country. As part of this initiative, Hofstra will engage in a 16- to 20-month comprehensive review of internationalization efforts on campus. She reported that she has met with Jason Davidow, co-chair of the International Students’ Task Force, to discuss the work it did, which will be incorporated along with other efforts done on campus, into the self-study process. The Provost will be announcing the structure of the Steering Committee, as well as a time-line and process for this self-study within the next couple of weeks.

The Provost reported that there was an initial meeting of the search committee for a new Dean for the Zarb School of Business, with the search consultants from Isaacson, Miller, and she was delighted with the level of engagement from both the faculty and board members on the committee, on the characteristics that we want and need, as well as the challenges that the Zarb Business School has. Periodic updates will be posted on how the search is going.

The Provost also reported that she has met with faculty from the School of Education, as well as the Department of Biology, and is looking forward to meeting with and getting to know other groups of faculty members in departments and schools, as the semester progresses. She also met with leadership from the AAUP, as well as members from the Center for Civic Engagement Retreat Group, before the semester began.

II. Report of the Senate Executive Committee Eugene Maccarrone

Action Items

1. Prof. Maccarrone presented for action the appointment of Anthony Basile, from the Zarb School of Business, for one-year to replace the remaining term of Stuart Bass, who was since elected as Speaker of the Faculty. The item passed with one abstention.

2. Prof. Maccarrone presented for action the 2016-2017 Academic Calendar. This item was brought to the Senate at its May meeting, and needs to move forward to the Full Faculty for approval. Prof. Maccarrone reported that an original version of this calendar was brought to the Full Faculty at its February 23rd, 2015 meeting and was not approved. In essence, the new revision creates a calendar for the university without reference to religious holidays, for the first time. The proposed calendar starts after Labor Day, eliminates religious holidays, provides for a mid-semester fall break, and satisfies all the classroom time required by the state. Debra Goodman, from the School of Education commented as to whether elimination of conversion days and religious holidays provides more flexibility for graduate classes. For example, 15 class sessions including finals week. This would allow faculty to take a religious holiday or to accommodate conference presentations, special events, etc. - and still have 14 sessions. Since graduate classes only meet once a week, and meet 2 hours for a 3 s.h. course, it's hard to fit everything in. The response was that there are only 14 sessions including finals because the Spring calendar has the 2 day President's Week break and the fall calendar added a two day break in October. Prof. Maccarrone reported that the Registrar, Lynne Horgan who worked on this calendar throughout the years has left the University. Prof. Bass reported that there was very specific language which was supposed to be inserted incorporated into the proposal for the 2016-2017 calendar. The language, in essence was to state that no faculty member shall assign any typical assignments that would infringe upon any student's desire to observe their respective religious beliefs. He feels that a statement of intent should be incorporated based upon the passage of this calendar, to protect those students and faculty members be made aware of this language. Provost Simmons reported that she has worked with Vice President Dougharty on proposing some drafted language as well as a draft structure to the calendar so that faculty are aware of the major holidays that students may bring forward. A discussion followed. The item passed with 26 in favor of, and 3 opposed.

Information Items

1. Prof. Maccarrone presented for information, that the 2014-2015 Annual Report has been prepared and published on the University Senate's website at <http://www.hofstra.edu/Faculty/senate/>. The report is listed under the "Senate Documents" drop down menu. He reported that anyone who is not familiar with governance and structure of the committees that lead into the University Senate, should review the document to familiarize themselves with the structure & bylaws of the Senate, as well as the activities that individual committees have worked on. Caroline Schreiner also reported that if anyone wishes to have a hardcopy of the report, to email her at Caroline.Schreiner@hofstra.edu
2. Prof. Maccarrone reported for information that the Subcommittee on the Library, a sub-committee of the Planning and Budget Committee, continues its discussion on re-purposing the third floor of the Axinn library for certain non-traditional purposes. Since this is a sensitive issue, Provost Simmons has agreed on the part of the University and through Howard Graves the Director of the Library, working with the Subcommittee on the library, faculty and students, to a timeline that allows for more time than previously defined. Generally, any changes decided to be made to the library will be made during this academic year, and any resulting physical modifications will occur during the summer of 2016. Provost Simmons reported that she is a firm believer that doing things that bring more students into the library and help them interact with library faculty is in our best interest and will have a positive effect on student retention & satisfaction. In order to accomplish this, more planning is required. She reported that she has met with the library faculty a couple of weeks ago and talked thoroughly about their concerns and ideas. They also discussed how the library can become a more active part of

student learning, and expose students to the strengths that the library faculty have to offer, as well as how room is made in the library for these things to happen. This will be a collaborative process. A discussion followed.

3. Prof. Maccarrone reported for Information a tentative administration proposal to move the Zarb School faculty offices and classrooms to Hagedorn Hall, and reciprocally move the School of Education to Weller Hall, which presently houses the Zarb faculty and administration. He noted that renovations may be needed to properly accommodate any such changes, including renovations to related classroom space, as may be appropriate. He encouraged all concerned to seek to provide input regarding this while this matter is in the discussion stage. A discussion followed.
4. Prof. Maccarrone reported for information, a matter that Kathleen Wallace, from the Department of Sociology, brought to his attention regarding an about “audio-note taker” by Sonocent, that would be made available to students needing a note-taking accommodation. Student Access Services (SAS), who provide disability related education, services and resources to the Hofstra Community, has received a grant for this program. He requested that anyone having any questions or concerns about this, to bring them to his attention. Prof. Wallace reported that the technology in question makes a recording of a class, so some questions were raised about the impact of this including, the discussions in classes, who owns the recording, who has access, and are faculty required to allow the recording, etc. Vice President Dougharty reported that if there is a committee of the senate that would like to discuss the matter further, he is sure Jean Peden-Christodoulou, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, and Julie Yindra, Director of Student Access Services, would be more than happy to speak to them.

III. Committee Reports

- A. George Giuliani, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee reported that the committee will be meeting this Monday to address the issues that Prof. Goodman has raised regarding the School of Education, as well as voting procedures on committees. He would like to personally thank James Sample for covering as chair while he was on sabbatical.
- B. Jared Sarcka, chair of the Student Affairs Committee reported that the committee accomplished a lot last year as a result of collaboration between the University Senate, the Student Affairs Committee, and the Student Government Association. The committee will foster collaboration between student governance groups and clubs on campus. Last year, one major issue the committee dealt with was with food service on campus, to which he is happy to report has improved with regard to quality and some prices.
- C. Caroline Schreiner reported for chairperson Jason Davidow that the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee will continue 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.
- D. Marc Silver, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that with respect to the bylaws, pertaining to the membership on the committee, there has been a question of the location of the Deans representative of the Senate, who is assigned to the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, but has been sitting on the Faculty Affairs Committee for years. Should the Faculty Affairs Committee decide to revise its bylaws to

appoint the Dean's representative to its committee, the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee will drop reference to the Dean's representative.

He also reported that the committee continued its deliberations on mid-semester grade reporting and moved forward to endorse a plan. As he mentioned at the last Senate meeting, Hofstra seems to be behind the curve when it comes to keeping students up to date about progress. The rationale for instituting such a system is to ensure that students have some clear basis for knowing where they stand in each course at a time when they can still make adjustments that improve their chances for success during the semester.

Key aspects are as follows:

- Mid-semester grade should be a simple binary assessment "satisfactory"/"reasons for concern"
- Students will receive feedback between the 2nd week of the semester and the 7th week of the semester – determined by their sense of when they have sufficient information to provide a meaningful assessment to students
- The grade is an interim assessment and does not get computed directly into the final grade for the course

Prof. Silver reminded the Senate that originally a joint subcommittee composed of members of both the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee and the Faculty Affairs Committee will be established. However, it was decided that the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee will consider the academic aspect of this in terms of whether it is beneficial for students and affect them positively or negatively in the curricular and academic experience of students. Impact on faculty such as workload or academic freedom issues will be taken up by the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Prof. Silver also reported that the committee will continue to look at the effectiveness of UNIV 001, which is an online tutorial class, for "at-risk" undergraduate students. When it was first instituted, there were only 40-50 students enrolled whereas now there are hundreds of students enrolled.

- E. William Nirode, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee will continue the work it started last semester including, designated smoking zones on North Campus, the "Scoot Shuttle," and monitoring the Library Committee and its work on the repurposing proposal for the 3rd floor of Axinn Library.

IV. New Business

Eugene Maccarrone reported that Stuart Bass will be honored at the 2015 Alumni Awards Dinner on Thursday, September 24, at 6:30 p.m. The event will be held at The Garden City Hotel in Garden City, and offers his congratulations.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:34pm.