

## **MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019**

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

Present: Abraham, Berliner, Boston-Hill, Burnett, Caniano, Cassar, Chun, Crofts, Dippel, Eads, Ellinger, Elkis-Abuhoff, Ghorayeb, Harb, Harley, Heiss, Hernandez, Hirsch, Houck, Huang, Lopez, Lotier, McElroy, Miller, Seirup, Shapiro, Tarson, Tompkins, Wallace

Absent: Dougharty, Eliot, Ortiz-Jimenez, Rose, Schlegel

Guests: Craig, Ploran, St. Leger

**I.** The May 6, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.

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

The Provost convened the meeting by reporting that the incoming freshman class is the strongest in terms of quality in our history and had Jessica Eads, Vice President for Enrollment Management, speak more:

- approximately 1525 first-year students
- approximately 275 transfer students
- freshman class has an average of 3.67 GPA, compared to last year's 3.64
- likely to change a little in an upwards way
- 15% test-optional

The Provost reported that "Pride Park," the area outside of the Student Center has been transformed and looks stunning, and the Student Center renovations, which includes a full-size Starbucks, have been completed and also looks stunning.

The Provost reported on events on campus:

- No Hate - Initiative promotes inclusion, honoring all communities on campus, and building bridges for groups and individuals to work together. Various events October through December
- 2019 Fall Festival – Concert and carnival on Saturday, September 28  
bands include Reservoir Dawgs, 3OH!3, and Flo Rida concerts
- Drama and Dance Department performing Legally Blonde musical  
October 25 – November 3 in the Adams Playhouse
- Division I team events including:
  - Men's and Women's Soccer
  - Women's Field Hockey

- Men's and Women's Track and Field
- Men's and Women's Tennis
- Women's Volleyball
- Men's and Women's Basketball (starting in November)
- Men's Wrestling (starting in November)

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

Prof. Caniano reported that by the October meeting there should be a robust agenda, which will include the minor modifications to the class schedule

#### **Action Items**

Prof. Caniano presented for action, the Online Course and Teacher Ratings (CTRs) Pilot Program Assessment Rubric Final from the Faculty Affairs Committee. Prof. Hirsch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee reported that last semester the Senate approved the Online CTR pilot program and at the time, the Faculty Affairs Committee announced they have approved an assessment rubric which will be presented in the fall. The rubric includes ways to test for differences in quantitative results as well as qualitative results from the perspective of faculty and the ability to ask students if they like or dislike the CTR being delivered online. A discussion followed and the item passed unanimously.

### **IV. New Business**

There was no new business.

### **V. Committee Reports**

- A. There was no report from the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee. Prof. Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee has a class during Senate meeting times and will send his report going forward. Caroline Schreiner reported that their first meeting will be on Wednesday.
  
- B. Rina Hirsch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that she, along with Senator-at-large Jean Paul Rodrigue met with the Chairs' Caucus to discuss "predatory" publications and problems that might arise in the tenure and promotion process. The committee will send out some information shortly to the chairs of the departments, as well as the DPC chairs. The committee will meet on September 18 and continue work on the CTRs, adapting for use in online and hybrid courses and potentially adding criteria that evaluates diversity

initiatives in the curriculum, and/or support for inclusive classroom environment. Other items the committee has on its agenda include:

- revisions to Faculty Statute VII – The University Senate to include the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer as an ex-officio member
- will review the statute to see if there are any other positions they feel need to be included in the Senate.
- reviewing the Secretary to the Faculty position in Faculty Statute IX – Faculty Meetings and considering changing the position to a Deputy Speaker, or Vice Speaker for Campus Engagement
- the idea is to have this person engaged in many meetings we don't get feedback from frequently
- look into having photos attached to outlook emails, perhaps an “opt out” option
- look at Faculty Policy Series #28 – Retirement to make sure language is up to date with current practice.

C. David Harb, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that he met with Provost Berliner about the focus for the semester in areas that the committee should target. He also met with Gabrielle St. Leger, Dean of Students, who provided him with the resources available to him on campus for him to utilize to better help the students at Hofstra.

D. Craig Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee met today, and agenda items include

- Solidify ways to create greater buy in for the Living Learning Communities as part of the ongoing retention efforts on campus
- some schools are doing great, so the committee is going to try and identify what is working and possibly replicate in the other schools
- working towards creating a Faculty in Residence program

E. Prof. Caniano announced that Paul Fritz, who was elected to serve as chair of the UAAC, has been moved to the HCLAS Dean's office to serve as Acting Associate Dean. Therefore, the UAAC needs a chair. After some discussion Kevin Boston-Hill was elected and will be moved from the FAC to the UAAC to serve this position.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.