

**UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021**

I. The minutes of the December 1, 2020 minutes were approved.

II. Report of the Speaker of the Faculty, George Giuliani

Prof. Giuliani convened the meeting by reporting that for anyone who was not able to ask a question today, may email him directly.

III. Report of the Provost, Herman A. Berliner

(See Attachment A1)

IV. Updates on the Semester

A. Kathleen Gallo, Dean, Hofstra Northwell School of Graduate Nursing & Physician Assistant Studies, reported the following:

- completed the fall semester by doing 8,484 Covid-19 tests
- last tests done for the fall were the exit testing from November 16-19
- picked up inter-session surveillance testing on December 2
- started spring initial testing on January 12
- from December 12 – February 22, 4,431 tests were completed
 - combination of rapid tests or molecular PCR tests (rapid test)
 - any positive tests are sent to the lab to confirm the positive
 - 37 positive cases (positivity rate of .84)
- Surveillance tests are done four times a week,
 - on Monday and Tuesdays, they are done at Physical Education Building
 - on Thursday and Saturday at Student Health
- Flu vaccines are still being given
 - This year we are just under 900 flu vaccinations as opposed to 350 given out last year

B. Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations reported that the semester started off very well, with the exception of the early semester snowstorms. Overall, the university has picked up a momentum coming out of the fall semester. Vice President Barkwill commends to the custodial staff, Compass Group, the Office of Public Safety, the Division of Student Affairs, and Kathy Gallo's team.

- every classroom received a deep cleaning over the two-month break
- reviewed all COVID classroom seating configurations and updated all postings of what social distancing should be
- all signage in buildings were replaced (mask wearing, social distancing)
- PPE (cleaning supplies, masks, hand sanitizers, etc.) were replenished and inventoried for the spring semester, going into the summer session
- MERV 13 filters, the high efficiency filters were replaced once during the fall semester and have been replaced over the winter break
- HEPA filters were replaced
 - a few more were purchased over the winter break at the request of faculty members
- tents will be reinstalled starting around March 21
 - will be heated

- his department, along with Evan Koegl, Registrar and Director of Academic Records, Melissa Connolly, Vice President of University Relations, have identified inside spaces for students to go to in case they have an online class, or need a space to go to in between classes. Particularly in floors 4-8 of Axinn Library
 - 20-25 group study rooms were renovated with new furniture, lighting and flooring
 - new furniture was purchased for floors 4-8
 - socially distanced study cubicles
 - INTO has moved into Weller Hall which freed up two classrooms on the 2nd floor of Axinn Library
 - Renovations are finishing up for 246 BDC
 - will be used for students with a socially distanced set up
 - his department will be working with Kathy Gallo in the PEB testing students
- C. Evan Koegl, Registrar and Director of Academic Records reported that the semester seems to be going well, especially with the new time periods. HE also reported that there is a new registration process in place for late registration. Faculty members have adapted incredibly well to this, taking a tremendous amount of workload off of his staff. Registration for summer and fall 2021 starts in the evening of March 7.
- D. Steve Fabiani, Vice President for Digital Innovation and Technology, reported the following:
- there was a 40% drop in IT requests between the beginning of the fall semester and the beginning of the spring semester
 - hearing some requests from faculty to improve or streamline the connection that is in place between Zoom and Kaltura
 - Kaltura is looking to make some improvements in the way they operate
 - we are in active talks with Zoom to see if we can make it possible to store multiple semesters of content directly in the platform
 - the ITS spring newsletter is up and has news about what's been happening within the department over the course of the last six months or so, including various improvements that IT has made

Mitchell Kase, Associate Director of Instructional Design, reported that feedback from a recent survey from the Special Committee on Educational and Information Technology spoke to some of faculty successes and challenges teaching synchronously to students both in person and remotely at the same time. Some of the big takeaways that they saw were folks were looking to get more tips from colleagues on what worked well when teaching over Zoom, whether it's using PowerPoint, or structuring classes. There were a lot of comments where faculty expressed need for sort of more examples. He reported that IT has collaborated with faculty and the Office of the Provost in December and January, putting together a really lovely video that features your colleagues sharing their tips on what worked well for them when they were teaching synchronously over Zoom. The link will be sent out again and the video is about 10 minutes long.

Other feedback spoke to looking for a little bit more interest or support around creating tests in Blackboard and/or using some of the online proctoring software that every faculty member at Hofstra has access to which includes the Respondus Lockdown Browser Monitor. There was also positive feedback regarding the webinars that IT runs. The mid semester webinar series,

which will focus on assessment strategies and technologies that can be used regarding assessments and all the various tools around those. Upcoming webinars and workshops that will be offering the workshop series will also include faculty teaching with technology forums so faculty can exchange ideas and pick up tips and strategies. These are less formal webinars but more conversations around what has been working well for you over the semester. He also reported that his department will continue to offer our virtual offer office hours with technologists for one-to-one appointments.

E. Melissa Connelly, Vice President of University Relations reported the following:

- COVID signage has been reworked
- Working with Corinne Kyriacou's committee on some new mental health video assets that have reached thousands of people
- Reimagined how the Health Ambassadors work
 - They have been spreading around campus in indoor locations during the spring semester and have been helping move people apart or rethinking where they should be
- The new website has been launched and moving into "phase 2" looking at how the bulletin interacts with the curricular needs of the website
- The Cultural Center is already looking ahead to the fall 2021 semester putting out an open call for events

F. Karen O'Callaghan, Director of Public Safety reported that things have been relatively quiet in the department and thanks the whole Hofstra community for helping them get through these very trying times. In particular, she thanks the bus drivers who, throughout this bad weather, continues to get community members to and from railroad stations and across campus.

V. Report of the Chair of the Senate Executive Committee, William Caniano

Prof. Caniano reported that the committees are busy working on various initiatives

VI. Report of the AAUP, Elisabeth Ploran

Prof. Ploran reported that the AAUP is continuing to monitor COVID-19 case levels on campus and in the local area in conjunction with the administration. They are also continuing to work with the administration on a plan to vaccinate Hofstra community members as soon as the state allows the campus to receive a vaccine allotment. Members who are experiencing declining numbers of students attending in-person classes similar to Fall should alert the Executive Council.

VII. Report of the Chairs' Caucus, Karyn Valerius

Prof. Valerius reported that the Chairs' Caucus had their first meeting of the semester on February 10. They met with Elfreda Blue, Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Affairs, Dia Whyte, Coordinator for the University Bulletin and Curriculum, and bulletin manager Dia Whyte and Marc Oppenheim, Dean of University Advisement, who demonstrated a new academic planning tool for students.

There's been a discussion around converting a face to face or hybrid course to fully remote in the specific instance where very few students are attending in person. It would allow departments the

flexibility to respond to what is happening in the classroom in order to create the best possible educational experience for all of the students.

Another issue that the Provost's Office addressed very quickly is a protocol for providing Blackboard access for teaching observations in asynchronous courses. An email was circulated this morning.

Their next meeting is scheduled for March 1.

VIII. New Business

Timothy Daniels, Professor of Anthropology, presented a resolution from the Black Faculty Council which call for targeted and cluster hires of faculty within and across various departments and colleges that have a demonstrated record of work focused on Black/African American and African Diaspora issues and populations. A discussion followed and the item was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.