

**UNIVERSITY FACULTY MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2021**

I. The minutes of the February 22, 2021 minutes were approved.

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

Prof. Giuliani convened the meeting by asking for a moment of silence for colleague Dr. Barry Nass, former Associate Dean in HCLAS, Vice Dean of New College, and Associate Professor Emeritus of English, who passed away on April 17, 2021 after a long illness. Prof. Giuliani said the following:

“Barry earned his AB, MA, and PhD degrees from Princeton University. In 1987, he joined Hofstra University as a member of the faculty in the Department of English, where he taught Shakespeare, Medieval Literature, and Holocaust studies until 2016, when a debilitating stroke cut short his career. Barry was an extraordinary educator, who had high standards and demanded almost as much from his students as he did from himself. He loved learning and ideas, literature, theater, and the arts, and he was never at a loss for words and his signature smile and wry wit warmed and charmed friends and strangers alike. He was deeply loved by his family and many friends. I asked that we now take a brief moment of silence on our colleague Dr Barry Nass”

Prof. Giuliani congratulated the newly elected leaders in governance:

- Dr. William Nirode as the incoming Speaker of the Faculty
- Dr. Sabrina Sobel as the incoming Secretary of the Faculty

He said the following:

“May your terms in governance be incredibly smooth and he is extremely confident we are in great hands who will be leading us in the future. Thank you for your commitment to university service, and I wish you all the best with everything.

As I enter my 20th year at Hofstra, more than half of my time has been in university governance. I had the honor to serve as chair of the Faculty Affairs Committees, chair of the Senate Executive Committee, and currently as Speaker of the Faculty. To say that it has been an honor and a privilege would be an understatement as I am so incredibly fortunate to be a part of a process that will forever be special in my professional career. Today, as I preside over my last full faculty meeting as speaker, there are so many people I would like to thank and, we would be here hours to express my gratitude to everyone who helped guide me through this journey. And I'm being serious, to thank all faculty, staff, and administration is much too numerous if we were to get out of here in two hours. You know who you are, and I apologize for not individually recognizing each of you for your generosity, insight, collaboration, and time please know how grateful I am for all of your support every step of the way. But there are just a few people I absolutely must take this moment to thank.

First, I need to thank Caroline Schreiner. None of this, and I mean none of it gets done without Caroline and her ability to organize everything and manage our university's governance system. She has been and continues to be a tremendous resource and we are so fortunate to have her working with us. To have such a well-run, efficient, and organized system of governance.

The others I need to thank are the members of faculty leadership who I am humbled to have the chance to work with his speaker. Bill Caniano, Elisabeth Ploran, Kathleen Wallace, Karyn Valerius, and Dan Seabold were solely instrumental in guiding and working with me in my role as speaker, and there are no words to express my sincerest of gratitude for their collaborative efforts and friendship. The brainstorming we did as a group, agreeing to disagree, and working with administration especially through the greatest challenges during the pandemic, will always stand out as the most collegial professional experience in my life. These members of faculty leadership are the finest and hardest working people you will ever meet, and their dedication to the university is exemplary. And finally, let me conclude by taking this moment to thank all of you. Your genuine concerns of faculty for university issues and the opportunity to work with you as speaker just validates even more what a tremendous community we have, and the wonderful way in which we work as a team. Again, it has been an honor serving in governance and truly from the bottom of my heart, thank you for having the confidence to me as speaker and providing kindness, generosity, professional insight, and friendship for the past 20 years. So, thank you.

It is now my pleasure to introduce our Provost, Dr. Herman Berliner. This Wednesday there will be a celebration of Herman and all that he's accomplished and then to the university for the past 50 years so I will be very brief and save most of the accolades for Wednesday. But I would be remiss if I didn't say something today about my experiences with Herman as speaker. Herman seeks excellence in everything he does. It wouldn't be possible for one person to care more about Hofstra University, and its success than Herman. He embodies all that Hofstra is, can, and will be. Herman is a visionary and a person with the highest of integrity. A scholar who is honest and holds for the strongest of moral principles. I learned so much from Herman about calm, patient leadership. Always giving everyone in meetings the opportunity to express his or her opinions in the most collegial of ways. His value system is consistently congruent with the mission of our university, and he is an advocate for the values of the mission of Hofstra. Having worked with Herman on so many issues, it became very evident that he was committed to fundamental fairness and due process in the implementation of professional and academic standards. Always sensitive to, and respectful of differences among academia, in a complex university, he embraced the academic tradition of encouraging free conversation and dissent while being visible and accessible to all constituencies. Working with Herman every week, faculty leadership often brought very difficult problems, and pressing concerns from the faculty directly to Herman. And to his credit, Herman never shied away from the tough issues. Always listening and attempting to do what he thought would be best for sustaining Hofstra through challenging times. My deepest of gratitude goes out to Herman for his dedication, perseverance, insights, and willingness to tackle hard problems especially during the past year and a half. In the end I can talk so much longer about my highest of respect for Herman, but I will conclude by saying I will truly miss working with him and thank you for his leadership and service to the university. Again, we will have a celebration of Herman and his accomplishment on Wednesday at 1:00 o'clock via Zoom. I hope you can all be there for this very well-deserved event.”

Prof. Giuliani then asked for a round of applause for Provost Berliner.

### **III. Report of the Provost, Herman A. Berliner** (See Attachment A1)

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

### **Action Items**

1. Prof. Caniano presented for action the 100% Smoking-Free and Tobacco-Free Campus Policy. This was brought to the University Senate by the Student Affairs Committee in partnership with the Student Governance Association, so it was a completely student-driven policy change. A slight discussion followed, and the item was passed with 60% in favor of, 25% opposed, and 15% abstained.
2. Prof. Caniano presented for action the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar. Evan Koegl, Registrar and Director of Academic Records explained a shift in the October break from Monday and Tuesday to Thursday and Friday. The beginning of the week has become such an important recruitment day for the university because schools have off that day. We can run actual admission events during that time. It was requested a few years ago that we shift that holiday towards the end of the week to accommodate it. He reported that it works out a little bit better with conversion days for that week. After more discussion, the item passed
3. Prof. Caniano presented for action revisions to the graduate bulletin regarding badge study. Christopher Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the badges were an idea adopted last year, to reward students for taking collections of courses that don't warrant a degree. They envision them as primarily for non-matriculated students who might take several courses and then get an electronic credential, they could put on their *LinkedIn* that shows that they've done that. Since then, faculty had been proposing courses for badge study that are for matriculated students or even restricted to matriculated students, so there was some language which conflicted, therefore the committee revised the language to fix it. The item passed.
4. Prof. Caniano presented for action revisions to Faculty Policy Series #11 - Procedures for Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Undergraduate Students at Hofstra University and Faculty Policy Series #11G - Procedures for Handling Violations of Academic Honesty by Graduate Students at Hofstra University. He reported that this policy was previously passed last year, but the Provost's Office wanted some clarification on the timeline for appeals. The items passed with 74% in favor of, 3% opposed, and 23% abstained.

## **VI. Report of the AAUP, Elisabeth Ploran**

Prof. Ploran reported that the AAUP will have a last membership meeting of the academic year on May 12th during common hour. Since the Provost mention that there is a "meet and greet" with the new public safety director, they will try to work with the Provost's Office on that. She reminded faculty that per the CBA, grades are due the first Friday after graduation in the spring the date this semester will be May 28<sup>th</sup>. The extent to which faculty members can meet that deadline and avoid student complaints administrative inquiries, the better the union can work on other things this summer of interest to you. At the membership meeting the AAUP will discuss how this semester has gone and what our desires are for fall. We don't know what the CDC will allow, but there's some questions that have come up in this meeting, and questions that have come up among the EC that they want to get the membership's input on. The union always encourage members to continue to reach out to her or to Martine Hackett if they have any questions or concerns or the administration has asked for a meeting with them.

## **VII. Report of the Chairs' Caucus, Karyn Valerius**

Prof. Valerius reported that the Chairs' Caucus met several times since the last full faculty meeting and many of the concerns as chairs have been related to planning for the fall semester and what the university's policies will be given the change in public health situation. At their last meeting, they met with representatives from the Provost's Office, and Institutional Research to discuss the various enrollment reports that are used by chairs.

## **VIII. New Business**

Julie Byrne, from the department of Religion, read a statement developed by an informal group of faculty about the president and provost's response to the cluster hiring resolution passed resoundingly by this faculty at our last meeting:

“Regarding the resolution passed by the Faculty at the last Full Faculty meeting on February 22, 2021, and the Provost's response, dated March 30, 2021, we the undersigned wish to express our dismay that the President and Provost deferred the key cluster-hiring portion of the resolution passed definitively by the Faculty. This was not only a rejection of a key component of the resolution, but also a painful affirmation of the status quo for many of us who see and experience Hofstra's deep implication in systemic racism, and who voted for the resolution as a practical and effective step toward righting the wrong of disproportionately low representation of Black faculty at the University, and toward making our community an equitable, supportive, and safe teaching, learning, and working environment for all.

Faculty are well aware of the University's pandemic-related financial constraint. But another thing that happened during the pandemic was the murder by police of Mr. George Floyd, and the subsequent reckoning with matters of systemic racism by many in the United States and across the world, including Hofstra students, faculty, and staff, along with the wider Long Island and New York City communities of which we are a part. Deferring the cluster-hiring resolution misses a moment of opportunity to lead in higher education and to place Hofstra among the vanguard institutions committing themselves to righting the wrongs of systemic racism. Closer to home, it refuses the invaluable counsel of Black faculty, student leaders, and other Black, indigenous, and people of color faculty, students, and staff who have raised their voices to call our community to account. Done strategically, cluster-hiring need not cost more money and abundantly repays itself in other measures of value, including recruitment of faculty and enrollment of students.

Now and in the future, we the undersigned call on the Office of the President, the Board of Trustees, the Office of the Provost, the Vice Presidents, the Deans, and Public Safety, to work with the Faculty on the imperative of the times: acknowledging the systemic racism that impedes fulfillment of the Hofstra mission statement, dismantling its structures with creative thinking and courageous action, and building for the first time a truly equitable campus community for all.”

A Google document was linked in the chat for faculty members to sign and Prof. Byrne asks that faculty members get in touch with her for more information about the next steps.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

