

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Monday, October 5, 2020**

Present: M. Abraham, H. Berliner, K. Boston-Hill, C. Burnett, W. Caniano, K. Dimes, C. Eliot, R. Hirsch

**A.** The minutes of the September 8, 2020 were approved.

**B. Action Items**

1. Prof. Caniano presented for action a resolution from the Faculty Affairs Committee to attach faculty photos to outlook and Blackboard with an opt-out option. Rina Hirsch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee reported that committee thought that given the University's remote learning environment, it makes sense and was unanimously approved. The item passed unanimously.
2. Prof. Caniano presented for action revisions to the Student Affairs Committee bylaws. Kaylor Dimes, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the students met informally over the summer and decided to restructure the bylaws which state that the committee advise the Dean of Students, which isn't the case. The committee wants to represent students better and felt they would like to act as a liaison from all governing bodies on campus, that are recognized by OSLE and the Division of Student Affairs. A discussion followed and it was decided to table the item for the committee to look into making this committee more undergraduate focused.
3. Prof. Caniano presented for action changing the name of the Special Committee of Environmental Safety to the Special Committee of Environmental Health and Safety. The committee suggested this last spring to more accurately describe what the committee addresses. The item passed unanimously.

**C. Committee Reports**

1. Kaylor Dimes, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that senators are working on committee initiatives. Rocco Distefano is working on a race sensitivity training initiative. The committee met with Cornell Craig, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, over the summer to discuss ideas. They decided it would make sense to hold a program inviting student leaders on campus to talk about race and diversity and then from there see how to move forward. Senator Distefano met with SGA and it has now become a joint program, and perhaps starting a council. Senator Jasternaski has been appointed to a new Public Safety Task Force and will be working with them on students concerns with Public Safety.
2. Rina Hirsch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that they met on September 14 and had an extensive discussion brought forth by Michael Heiss, the adjunct senator, regarding Netiquette and online standards of conduct. One of the biggest concerns he had was students potentially making faculty and other students uncomfortable on Zoom because of their background and how they are dressed. Prof. Heiss' proposal was recommending that the Student Affairs Committees and Provost's office amend the student Guide to Pride to reflect online standards of conduct, but the committee thought it was best to keep things in the hands of the faculty member to post an announcement about what their expectations are from their students and deal with it on a case by case basis.

Prof. Hirsch also reported that Margaret Abraham, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and Elisabeth Ploran, President of the AAUP, updated the committee on the memo of agreement that the administration and the union are working on with regard to peer observations and CTRs for online courses for those up for tenure/promotion. Any agreement reached would be a short-term agreement for the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters. The FAC will work on any long-term agreement with respect to these issues. A discussion followed.

3. Prof. Boston-Hill reported that the committee met earlier and discussed the racial equity initiative previously mentioned. He has spoken with Senator Disetfano and asked that he keep UAAC in the loop with what they are doing. The committee also discussed the mid-semester advisory. They are moving into the phase where they want to create a culture shift. A discussion followed. Prof. Boston-Hill also reported that the committee had a presentation from Jessica Eads, Vice President for Enrollment Management, regarding the admissions trends for the university.
  
4. Prof. Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee reported that Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations gave the committee an update on the campus, his assessment on how the university is doing in terms of responding to COVID-19. He also gave them an update on what was happening in terms of renovations and building. The committee also discussed the new EthicsPoint reporting system. Some committee members questioned how this was implemented without going through shared governance.
  
5. Prof. Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee formed three subcommittees to investigate specific issues:
  - online instruction specifically focused on the universal design for learning module and looking at how valuable it is for faculty and faculty awareness of it
  - exam security for online instruction and are there any addressable problems
  - graduate student support

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.