

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, November 23, 2020

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

- A. The minutes of the November 2, 2020 were unanimously approved.
- B. Prof. Caniano reported that the Athletic Policy Committee met today and that the student athletes did pretty well over the break, with record high GPA's. The coaches made sure that the student athletes had all the academic support they could possibly need. The Athletic Department was able to cut their budget in a way that worked well for them.

C. Discussion Item

- 1. Prof. Caniano presented for discussion, Surveys from the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee. Prof. Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that with regard to the Graduate Study Support Survey, Elfreda Blue, Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Affairs, asked the committee to look into what they could do for graduate students, especially in terms of career services and networking and how well do academic programs prepare for their professions. Also, is there anything Hofstra can do to enhance that. In particular, do students somehow need to connect more with the Career Center or internships and more generally, how can we make the community or environment more conducive to graduate study and research. The committee and the subcommittee discussed this for a while and came up with a number of ideas, but it became clear to them that we ought to have a more representative input from graduate students. The subcommittee working on this suggested the four questions as a minimal survey suggested to go to all graduate students to solicit areas of potential need or shortfall. A discussion followed.

Prof. Eliot reported that the subcommittee working on instructions for faculty for online learning created questions for faculty regarding the Universal Design for Learning (UDL). The subcommittee focused on the UDL module which is in all of our Blackboard courses. The committee wondered despite its narrow focus in making things more accessible. Does it offer broader instructions that would be valuable for all faculty in many ways beyond that narrow goal? At first when they started talking to people about it informally, they discovered that many people, including some committee members, are not aware of UDL and wondered if we might simultaneously increase awareness among faculty of UDL and also develop a sense of whether it is meeting their needs for instruction in instruction, or whether there could be more support for that. A discussion followed.

D. Committee Reports

- 1. Kaylor Dimes, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee continued to discuss the revision to their bylaws, considering the Senate Executive Committee's feedback. Prof. Eliot attended a meeting to discuss whether or not to create a separate graduate student committee separate from the Student Affairs Committee. The committee reached out to Stanley Cherian from the Office of Student Leadership &

Engagement (OSLE) for input. The committee also reached out to other governing bodies the OSLE recognizes.

2. Rina Hirsch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee discussed the implementation of EthicsPoints at length at its last meeting. The committee is hoping to move on to another item next meeting on December 14th, where they will discuss peer observations for online courses and providing additional guidance to faculty in that area.
3. Prof. Boston-Hill reported that the committee has not met since the last SEC meeting, they will meet next Monday, therefore there are no updates.
4. Prof. Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee reported that the committee met on November 10th with W. Houston Dougharty, Vice President for Student Affairs, Gabrielle St. Leger, Dean of Students, and Jean Peden-Christodoulou, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. A very constructive and useful conversation focusing on things related to how are the students doing, how is the Office of Student Affairs doing, and what can the committee do in terms of support. The committee is waiting for data collected from the Student Government Association (SGA) on how students are feeling about the combined remote/hybrid learning. There was a question about how faculty are feeling about it, and the committee provided some anecdotal information. He also reported that it would help their department if more faculty showed up to some of the events they are planning. Prof. Caniano suggested communicating to the Division of Student Affairs to create a more systemized way to get faculty support instead of just asking them to show up.
5. Prof. Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee worked on the two surveys discussed earlier. The committee will continue to work on exam security, the advice the university gives to online instructors, in particular the role of universal design for learning, and support the university provides to graduate study overall.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.