

MINUTES OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, April 5, 2021

Present: M. Abraham, H. Berliner, K. Boston-Hill, C. Burnett, W. Caniano, C. Eliot, M. Heiss, K. Lotier

Absent: K. Dimes

A. The minutes of the March 1, 2021 were unanimously approved.

B. Action Items

1. Prof. Caniano presented for action, the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar. Evan Koegl, Registrar and Director of Academic Records, reported that this calendar is a rehash of the Fall 2011 calendar and the more recent January, Spring and Summer 2017 calendars. There are some conversion days in the fall, which will probably be a trend going forward if we are keeping with a post-Labor Day start and keeping the initial break on the tail end of Columbus Day week. The summer does reflect the new Juneteenth holiday. Otherwise, it is a pretty standard calendar replicating the before mentioned calendar years. The item passed unanimously.
2. Prof. Caniano presented for action, a survey from the Environmental Priorities Committee. Kristopher Lotier, chair of the Environmental Priorities Committee, reported that in a previous version, there were two questions being asked simultaneously. "How often (what percentage of the time) do you do the following for environmental reasons when coming to campus? The questions were split apart:

Prior to the Pandemic, how often (what percentage of the time) did you do the following when coming to campus?

How important were environmental reasons in guiding your decisions to do or not do the following tasks?

In addition, a dollar amount was taken out of question #43:

If Hofstra asked faculty, staff, and administrators to donate \$25 per semester to such an initiative, would you be willing to support this kind of initiative at Hofstra?

was changed to:

If faculty, staff, and administrators were asked to donate a small dollar amount per semester to such an initiative, would you be willing to support this kind of initiative at Hofstra?

Margaret Abraham, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, reported that we are sending out different surveys, and in terms of demographics, is wondering whether or not we should have a systematic way in which we use the question of race/ethnicity. A discussion followed about having uniformity in collecting data on demographics and how it is used. It was suggested to invite Chavon Stuparich, Executive Director for Institutional Research, to a future Senate Executive Committee meeting to discuss this issue. The item was tabled.

3. Prof. Caniano presented for action, revisions to the Graduate Bulletin. Christopher Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that there were badge study programs being proposed for currently matriculated graduate students. In other words, students that are

enrolled in our traditional programs, but also want to seek a badge, while enrolled. After reviewing the language, he discovered that technically any matriculated students might be unnecessarily penalized by the language in the badge program bulletin text, because it was written for non-matriculated students. Three of the corrections have to do with this issue. In addition to a typo being corrected, Suzanne Pike, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, recommended that the existing language is too punitive with regard to academic honesty, and the committee agreed to change the language from “shall be suspended or dismissed,” (for substantial violations of academic honesty) to “may be suspended or dismissed, from the badge program, in line with Faculty Policy Series 11G.” A discussion followed, and a friendly amendment was made to keep the word “shall.” The item passed with the friendly amendment.

4. Prof. Caniano presented for action, Universal Design for Learning and Culturally Responsive Teaching. Prof Eliot reported that Elfreda Blue, Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Affairs, suggested that the GAAC look at helping instructors of graduate courses with their electronic instruction. A subcommittee of the GAAC created a document that can be taken to the Chairs’ Caucus to share with their respective faculty about what UDL is, how it works and what benefits faculty might yield from considering some of these principles. Prof. Caniano suggested having the Special Committee on Educational and Information Technology review the document before bringing it to the Chairs’ Caucus. The Provost suggested also speaking with the deans, in addition to the chairs.
5. 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. Caroline Schreiner reported that revisions to these documents were passed by the SEC and the University Senate last spring, but when brought to the faculty, Vice Provost Blue requested additional revisions to IV. C. building in more time for the Ad hoc Board of Appeals to schedule a hearing. The items passed unanimously.

C. New Business

Prof. Caniano reported that the SEC was asked to consider a policy whereby a motion introduced under “new business” at a faculty meeting is voted on at the next regularly scheduled faculty meeting, or the next special faculty meeting. Doing so would assure that all faculty are aware of, and able to exercise their rights to vote on potentially important issues that come before the faculty but not through the normal channels of governance. A discussion followed, and it was decided to send this issue to the Faculty Affairs Committee for discussion.

D. Discussion Item

Prof. Caniano presented for discussion a recommendation from the Athletic Policy Committee (APC) that pre-registration opportunity be offered for student-athletes, effective with the Spring 2022 semester. The recommendation is outlined in a report submitted by the Athletic Policy Committee. A discussion followed and it was decided to present this item for discussion at the April 12 Senate meeting, and invite Jayne Ellinger, chair of the APC, Rick Cole Jr, Vice President and Director of Athletics, and Rachel Peel-McAndrew, Associate Dean for the Center for University Advisement to the meeting as well.

E. Committee Reports

1. Prof. Heiss, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is establishing two subcommittees: One regarding adjunct recognition, and the other regarding innovation recognition. Their meetings will begin after the April 19 FAC meeting. He also reported that Karyn Valerius, chair of the Chairs' Caucus, was supposed to present to the FAC on May 4 about Digital Measurement, but recently canceled. The Provost suggested a special committee be created to take a look at the way we evaluate faculty.
2. Prof. Boston-Hill, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is meeting this week, therefore there is nothing new to report.
3. Prof. Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee reported that the committee met with Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations on March 15 about ongoing projects. The committee also had Erika Schaub, Assistant Director of Public Safety, Brian Ferris, Director of Enterprise Systems, and Kevin Pechin, Associate Director, Web and Mobile Development, at the meeting to discuss the Hofstra Shuttle app. Ultimately there is a nice working product there, and is available on the portal and through the Hofstra app. Part of the main issue that's been coming up from students is that the nighttime shuttles have been going off course and sort of acted like a point to point shuttle service, which some students have an issue with as they don't think that particularly safe. Prof. Burnett suggested putting in a GPS tracker that would notify Public Safety when the shuttle went significantly off the expected course. Public Safety could then review with the appropriate driver as to why they did or did not do that. An ad-hoc committee was created by the Student Affairs Committee to further discuss the night shuttle service.
4. Prof. Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is working with other bodies, including the Honor Board, to work on academic honesty for online testing. Suzanne Pike, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs is coordinating a new ad-hoc committee for this issue. The committee will continue to work on focus groups with representative graduate students, to figure out how graduate students might better be supported in their academic work. thinking about their needs for academic work.

Prof. Caniano reported as old business, the revisions to the Student Affairs Committee bylaws which were presented to the SEC in October but tabled for the committee to look into making this committee more undergraduate focused, and the possibility of creating a Graduate Student Affairs Committee. In December Kaylor Dimes, chair of the SAC, reported that the committee ultimately decided not to create a separate graduate committee. However, the revisions to the bylaws were never officially approved by the SEC, so he is bringing them back up for action. A discussion followed and the revisions passed unanimously.

Senior Vice Provost Abraham reported that language in the Faculty Policy Series needs to be systematically updated to change the pronouns "his/her" to "their" to make them more inclusive. The Provost reported that this is just a language change and does not have to go through shared governance.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.