

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, OCTOBER 14, 2020
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Abraham, Berliner, Boston-Hill, Burnett, Caniano, Cassar, Ciani, Craig, Dimes, Dippel, Distefino, Dougharty, Eliot, Elkis-Abuhoff, Ghorayeb, Gounelas, Heiss, Hernandez, Hirsch, Houck, Kinney, Lopez, Lotier, McElroy, McFadden, Schlegel, Seabold, Seirup, Stark, Tarson, Tompkins

Absent: Eads, Huang, Jasterzenski, Miller, Ortiz-Jimenez, Sunik

Guests: Ploran

I. The September 14, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Report of the Provost, Provost, Herman Berliner

The Provost convened the meeting by reporting that up to 86% of the faculty has completed the Mid-Semester Advisory. The hope is to get above 84%. This information is enormously helpful to our students, as well as those in the Office of Advisement and the Office of Academic Excellence that reach out to students. It is information that students should have, so he encourages faculty to complete it if they have not already done so.

The Provost reported that President Rabinowitz will be addressing the faculty on Monday, October 19 at 2 p.m. on the Zoom platform.

Prof. Hirsch asked the Provost to please update the Senate about the investigation surrounding the anti-Semitic graffiti that was found on one of the residence halls. The Provost reported that the investigation is ongoing, but he has no additional information at this time. As soon as he receives more information, he will provide it.

A discussion followed about the spring calendar and active teaching days. The Provost reported that they will look at what has to be done to equalize for Tuesdays and Wednesdays taken out of circulation.

III. Report of the Senate Executive Committee, William Caniano

Prof. Caniano reported that the Environmental Priorities Committee is reconfiguring their long await survey and may present it to the University Senate by the end of the semester. He also reported that the survey created by the Special Committee on Educational Technology to shed light on any difficulty that adjunct faculty may have faced in the spring, will be going out by the end of the week. The committee is currently exploring ways to support digital scholarship.

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. The item passed with one opposed. This item will be brought to the full faculty on Monday. The Provost reported they will implement it as soon as possible.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Christopher Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is studying three areas with subcommittees:
- 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
- B. Rina Hirsch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee met recently and met and discussed by which *EthicsPoints* was chosen as the system for students to log anonymous complaints and other complaints through the University. This will be discussed at their next meeting on November 9. The committee will also discuss providing additional guidance for Faculty Policy Series #46 - Peer Observation of Teaching, in terms of online and hybrid courses, given that this has taken a more prevalent position in the university.
- C. Kaylor Dimes, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is looking into revising its bylaws, which she brought to the Senate Executive Committee on Monday, October 5. There was general agreement with the ideas which is moving closer to working with the undergraduate student body and the governing bodies that are recognized by OSLE, however there is a little bit of contention about how to include graduate students. This week, Prof. Eliot will join the discussion.
- D. Craig Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee had a meeting with the Provost and Jessica Eads, Vice President for Enrollment Management, regarding enrollment trends and challenges that Hofstra will ultimately have to face. They hope to return to this discussion with more concrete data and what happens if enrollment numbers keep going down in the Northeast, which is what most people expect. They would like to discuss means for Hofstra's medium to long term planning. The committee also received some good news that there is potential for graduate programs to increase during the recession. The challenges will be making sure that they are competitive and in an online format. There is a nice opportunity perhaps to do Lab Sciences that will create synergies between the Biology Department and health-related degrees that we already offer and will be offering in the very near future. The committee also had a discussion of research grant administration practices.
- E. Kevin Boston-Hill, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is looking into ways that they can support the racial equity initiatives that are being put out by Student Government Association (SGA) as well as the Black Faculty Council. The committee also discussed the Mid-Semester Advisory (MSA). As of last week, there was a 26% response rate and in a week's time it jumped up to almost 60%. The committee is looking to see how they can they want to create a culture shift for faculty to fill out the MSA, so there will be less of a need for all those emails faculty receive reminding them to fill it out. The committee also discussed admissions trends during the COVID-19 era, and what outreach the Office of Enrollment Management does to attract more students and where they are coming from.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.