

**MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, NOVEMBER 9, 2020**  
**THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY**

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

Absent: Dimes, Distefino, Eads, Elkis-Abuhoff, Huang, Jasterzenski, Ortiz-Jimenez, Stark, Sunik, Tarson

Guests: Koegl, Ploran, St. Leger, Peden-Christodoulou

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

**II. Report of the Provost, Provost, Herman Berliner**

The Provost convened the meeting by reporting that the governor of New York State has started to impose certain requirements on colleges and universities in New York. One requirement is that all schools go remote before Thanksgiving. The Provost noted that we had already made that decision prior to the start of the semester. The Governor is also requiring that schools start their spring semester no earlier than February 1, and no spring break. Hofstra already made the decision to start the spring semester on February 1 and have already eliminated spring break, so we are prepared. For SUNY students, the governor is requiring that they all have exit testing, the Office of Student Affairs is sending out a note to all our students, giving them the ability to get exit testing if they want to, but we are not making it a requirement. We have yet to decide exactly what protocol to follow when the students return. There will be some kind of testing and we still have to determine exactly how it would work.

**III. Report of the Senate Executive Committee, William Caniano**

**Action Items**

1. Prof. Caniano presented for action, the 2021-2022 Academic Calendar. Evan Koegl, Registrar and Director of Academic Records, reported that because of the way the dates fell this year and next year, this calendar is effectively the same calendar we passed for this year, pre COVID adjustment. The item passed unanimously.

**IV. New Business**

Prof. Ghorayeb reported that he has a course in medical imaging in the spring which he always offers, which plays a role of the technical elective for the Bio-Engineering Electrical Engineering students. About 15 students wanted to take it as a tech elective and it was refused. Provost Berliner reported that since it is a technical elective for undergraduate students, there is not additional revenue involved. If this is a course that is essential, the Dean can make an argument and request an additional section be scheduled.

**V. Committee Reports**

- A. Christopher Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that he has had a couple of productive meetings with people from the University Senate about the committee's inquiry into what the university can do to support graduate students better and would be happy

to speak with anyone else who wants to discuss that with him. The committee continues to brainstorm on this as well as exam security for online instruction.

- B. Rina Hirsch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee met earlier, and a large part of the discussion centered around *EthicsPoints*. The committee reinforced their pleasure with it as it has addressed some of the issues that were previously under addressed and discussed their recommendation that faculty be included in future faculty impacting initiatives. The committee hopes to discuss Faculty Policy Series #46 - Peer Observation of Teaching and revise language on the guidance that we provide faculty with respect to peer observations of online courses.
- C. Caroline Schreiner reported for Kaylor Dimes, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, that the committee:
- is moving forward with messaging the undergraduate recognized governing bodies
  - met with Professor Eliot to discuss how to move forward with graduate students (decided that it would be best not to create another committee, but instead figure out how to have better graduate student representation in both SAC and GAAC)
  - will be in contact with Stan Cherian in OSLE who advises the graduate student organizations in order to get representation for graduate students
  - will be working with Student Government Association (SGA) on a few student initiatives that were brought to the committee that deal with Student Access Services and Academic Affairs (this is in the early stages, more information to come)
- D. Craig Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee will meet tomorrow with Gabrielle St. Leger, Dean of Students, W. Houston Dougharty, Vice President for Student Affairs, and Jean Peden-Christodoulou, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs in attendance to discuss retention efforts and look into how the faculty can facilitate them.
- E. Kevin Boston-Hill, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee met last week and discussed the racial equity training being proposed by SGA and the Black Faculty Council. SGA and the black faculty council. What they discussed in terms of the two most recent incidents that took place on campus regarding the swastikas in the dormitories as well as the “black face” that was performed by a third-party group that came onto the campus, looking at the initial responses that were sent out by the University to the public, there seemed to have been a difference in the response levels. The committee is looking to see if there was a particular protocol in place that dealt with the response to these types of issues as well as any type of protocol within the vetting of third-party vendors that would explain what the understanding of University policies are regarding certain issues.

The committee will also take a look at the language in the undergraduate repeat request form.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.