

**MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, DECEMBER 7, 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, DiStefano, Dougharty, Eads, Eliot, Elkis-Abuhoff, Ghorayeb, Heiss, Hernandez, Hirsch, Houck, Huang, Kinney, Lopez, Lotier, McElroy, McFadden, Ploran, Schlegel, Seibold, Seirup, Sunik, Tarson, Tompkins

Absent: Dimes, Gounelas, Jasterzenski, Miller, Ortiz-Jimenez, Osner, Stark

Guests: Connolly, Ploran, St. Leger

I. The November 9, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

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

The Provost convened the meeting by reporting by giving an update on testing in terms of COVID-19 for the period between November 21 – December 4:

- 15 confirmed COVID-19 positives which were all students.
  - 8 were from on-campus testing and 7 were from off-campus testing
- smaller population on campus at this point in time, but we are still surveillance testing for 5% of our student population
- everyone has done a terrific job in our COVID response and it is reflected in our numbers

The Provost reported that in today's *Chronicle of Higher Education* there was a brief article on what will the spring term hold. The expectation is that institutions will have more in person classes than they did in the fall. This is because most institutions went to completely remote classes, which was not a great success for the institution because the students pushed back. For the fall semester, Hofstra had a good balance of in-person classes for introductory and first-level classes to the extent possible, hybrid classes for elective courses, and remote classes for graduate courses. We will stay the course for the spring, because the world has not yet changed. In terms of the hybrid courses, especially A & B, are really very challenging for anyone teaching with half of the class being present, and the other half not, and switching from class to class. What has made it more difficult is that the students that have been participating remotely, have not been able to hear the questions that the other students in the class have asked, putting the faculty member in the position where they have to repeat the question asked. President Rabinowitz has approved an additional ten classrooms with Advanced Lecture Capture, which includes multiple cameras and microphones which should be able to pick up questions from students.

The Provost reported that the new class schedule goes into effect starting this spring. Thanks to the terrific work of Evan Koegl, Registrar and Director of Academic Records, and the Office of Academic Records, the class times have been aligned with little overlap. In addition, the new schedule provides for two common hour slots of 75-minutes each, starting at 1pm, one on Mondays and one continuing to be on Wednesdays. This will facilitate more meeting opportunities for both students and faculty. The Provost notes that the University Senate will be moving to the new Monday 1pm common hour slot for its meeting time.

The Provost reported that about a month ago, he sent out the winners of last year's "Teacher of the Year" awards. Attention is paid to the Teacher of the Year recipient at the Hofstra Gala, which is our largest fundraising event of the year, and one of largest events attended by the public, as well as highlighted at multiple commencement ceremonies. Since we had a virtual gala and no in person commencement which was more of a "toast" rather than an actual commencement, the Provost would like everyone to hear the names of the recipients again:

- Maurice A. Deane School of Law  
Professor Kevin McElroy, Professor of Legal Writing
- Fred DeMatteis School of Engineering and Applied Science  
Edward Segal, Assistant Professor, Engineering
- School of Health Professions and Human Services  
Sharon Phillips, Assistant Professor, Health Professions
- Hofstra College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- School of Education  
Stephen J. Hernandez, Assistant Professor, Specialized Programs in Education
- School of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts  
John Krapp, Associate Professor, Comparative Literature, Languages & Linguistics
- Kalikow School of Government, Public Policy and International Affairs  
Meena Bose, Professor, Political Science
- School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics  
Behailu Mammo, Associate Professor, Mathematics
- Lawrence Herbert School of Communication  
Russell Harbaugh, Assistant Professor, Radio/TV/Film
- Frank G. Zarb School of Business  
Glen Vogel, Associate Professor, Accounting & Taxation
- Donald And Barbara Zucker School Of Medicine At Hofstra/Northwell
  - First 100 Weeks  
Robert Hill, PhD, Director, Structural Sciences, and Associate Professor
  - Second 100 Weeks  
Gainosuke Sugiyama, MD, Director, Minimally Invasive Surgery, Division of General Surgery, and Associate Professor

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

Prof. Caniano reported that he believes switching the full faculty and University Senate meeting times to the new common hour at 1pm on Mondays will help attendance. We will continue to hold meetings virtually but encourages the chairs of committees and sub-committees to start using Microsoft Teams, to be discussed at a later time.

Prof. Caniano reported that the Provost's Office has recommended some timeline changes 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. He will have the Senate Executive Committee look at it in the beginning of the spring semester.

Prof. Caniano reported that he met with Melissa Connolly, Vice President of University Relations, on December 4 to discuss continuing education and has asked her to address the Senate.

Vice President Connolly reported that her department is working on redrafting a continuing education plan that emphasizes connections between short-term noncredit skill based or disciplined based modules that can be built as hybrids mostly online in asynchronous but with synchronous elements that people can take completely online. These modules can create more pathways to our undergraduate and graduate programs and eventually apply for more workforce development grants from the federal and state government. These programs need to be in place before applying for grants, so they are looking at places that have been very successful at getting workforce development grants as well and trying to “marry” all of these elements together. In order to do this successfully, they need faculty who would be willing to lead these kinds of programs. If they are online, most of the faculty time would most likely be up front in the development, and then either the faculty could manage the course, or perhaps facilitators managed by the faculty might be able to manage the courses as they are as they are running. She hopes they are able to write the plan sometime before mid-January so they can budget it and see how practical it is. With regards to youth programs, this year, they are going to concentrate on the things we already do well and try to build back that market, especially if we are able to open in person for the summer. A discussion followed and Prof. Caniano reported that he is suggesting the Senate create an ad-hoc committee to work with Vice President Connolly as she goes forward with designing and redesigning new continuing education programs and camp programs.

#### **IV. Committee Reports**

A. Christopher Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the three subcommittees continue their discussions on:

- online instruction
- exam security
- support for graduate students

Anyone interested in these issues, can contact him

B. Rina Hirsch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is meeting next week and will be discussing Faculty Policy Series #46 - Peer Observation of Teaching, and hopefully providing additional guidance for observations of online and hybrid courses.

C. Rocco Distefano, reported for Kaylor Dimes, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, that the committee is working on several initiatives. Ms. Dimes is in communication with other student governing bodies on campus to create unity and to make communication more efficient between the governing bodies. She has gotten in touch with all but four and will be reaching out to the advisors to those bodies.

The committee also established the Hofstra Racial Equity Council which will be working on instituting racial equity training campus wide. They had their first meeting on November 24 and will continue to meet throughout the break, and into next semester. This includes students as well as members from the administration and faculty.

The committee is also working with the Student Government Association (SGA) on an initiative to create visibility and awareness for students with disabilities, and undergraduate senator Jasterzenski is working with the Director of Public Safety to ensure that all students who are on the Hofstra Shuttle are required to show I.D.

- D. Craig Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee met with Ms. Jaz; and Karen O'Callaghan, Director of Public Safety, to discuss student concerns which included stricter I.D. requirements. Some things that came out of the discussion is that hopefully in the near future, an app will be available that will track the shuttles. The committee discussed possibly collaborating with the department of Computer Science and the IT department to develop the system.

Prof. Burnett reported that the committee also discussed diversity training, prevention response to violence stocking, and CPR training. There were concerns about whether or not Director O'Callaghan could ask the bus drivers to do that and whether or not it would be a change in working conditions, and/or be considered additional work. Since the bus drivers are unionized, their leadership would need to be involved in the conversation.

- E. Kevin Boston-Hill, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that after completing an in-depth study on FPS #11, they found that there may be some inconsistency with the language regarding the GPA exception policy, so the committee will be working on cleaning language to add some consistency between the undergraduate bulletin, the policy series, and the repeat course form.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.