

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, APRIL 12, 2021
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, Dougharty, Eads, Eliot, Ghorayeb, Gounelas, Heiss, Hernandez, Hirsch, Huang, Kinney, Lopez, Lotier, McElroy, McFadden, Seirup, Sunik, Tarson, Tomei, Valerius

Absent: DiStefano, Elkis-Abuhoff, Jasterzenski, Miller, Ortiz-Jimenez, Osner, Schlegel, Stark, Tompkins

Guests: Cole Jr., Ellinger, Koegl, Peel-Macandrew, Ploran

I. The March 8, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Report of the Provost, Provost, Herman Berliner

The Provost convened the meeting by reporting on commencement. The university is still waiting to receive guidelines from New York State, but in the meantime have been in touch with all graduating students informing them that there will be an in-person commencement. New York State has indicated that commencements are much more complex than athletic events and therefore the guidance that has been given for athletic events does not hold for commencements. The university is prepared to honor its promise that commencement will be in-person regardless of what the rules and regulations are. The only rules on the books right now are that commencements are limited to 150 people. If necessary, the university will schedule multiple commencements of 150 participants. The Provost reported that he feels the state will show more of an understanding of commencements than they've demonstrated up until now, and we will be allowed to have possibly up to 600 graduates, and maybe a few thousand in the audience for a stadium that seats 15,000, but we have not gotten the go ahead. Regardless, the university is prepared to work through it as more details unfold.

III. Report of the Senate Executive Committee, William Caniano
For Action

1. Prof. Caniano presented for action the 2022-2023 Academic Calendar. Evan Koegl, Registrar and Director of Academic Records, reported that this calendar very closely replicates the 2011 and the 2017 calendars. There is a post-Labor Day start which means there will be a couple of conversion days during the week of Columbus Day to keep the break in the tail end of that week. The Summer session includes the new "Juneteenth" holiday. The Provost reported that the holiday goes into effect this summer and is now a regular part of our calendar going forward. The calendar passed.
2. Prof. Caniano presented for action, revisions to the Graduate Bulletin regarding badge study. Christopher Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that this was a new project that the committee passed a few years ago to offer badges. At the time, the committee thought of badges as something done by non-matriculated professionals. Since then, however, programs have proposed badge courses of study open to, and even restricted to, matriculated students. Therefore, the committee revised language that is problematic for matriculated students, along with adding reference to Faculty Policy Series #11G to the academic honesty section. The item passed.
3. 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. This item was passed by the Senate in May 2020 and full faculty in October 2020, but Elfreda Blue, Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Affairs, requested additional revisions to IV. C. building in more time for the Ad hoc Board of Appeals to schedule a hearing. The items passed.

For Discussion

Prof. Caniano reported for discussion the Athletic Policy Committee Preregistration Initiative. Rick Cole Jr, Vice President and Director of Athletics, reported that Rachel Peel-Macandrew, Associate Dean for the Center for University Advisement, and Jayne Ellinger, Faculty Athletic Representative and chair of the Athletic Policy Committee have worked very hard in trying to accurately and appropriately tell the academic story of our student athletes. The document outlines and includes:

- a summary of the culture of institutional and NCAA compliance
- academic obligations we have as members of the NCAA
- demonstrates the benchmark with our peers
 - Hofstra and Binghamton University are the only two universities not providing pre-registration for student athletes with Hofstra being the only university in our conference (Colonial Athletic Association) that does not provide pre-registration
- shows and outlines the academic performance of our student athletes

Vice President Cole Jr. reported that pre-registration for student athletes is an industry standard, based on the principles of Countable Athletically Related Activities (CARA), which talks about what is permissible to have athletes do as far as time commitments for athletic related activity, not inclusive of time in any form of sports medicine, community service, and those kinds of things. One of the first meetings prospective student athletes have when visiting our campus is with Associate Dean Peel-Macandrew or their staff to talk about not only the academic expectations, but also the academic protocols at Hofstra. Recruits often ask whether or not Hofstra offers pre-registration. From a recruitment perspective this leaves us at a disadvantage. He concluded his summary of the proposal by reporting that he believes there are demands that are unique to student athletes that have a minimum of 20 - 40 hours a week in their commitment in representing our great institution, that's what makes preregistration so pivotal and crucial. It is the industry standard because it aids itself to that constituency group having the ability to maximize their academic experience while representing the institution in any way.

Associate Dean Peel-Macandrew spoke about some of the challenges she's encountered registering student athletes. Provost Berliner added that Hofstra is very fortunate to have Associate Dean Peel-Macandrew heading the advisement for Athletics because she mitigates a lot of what the problems are, and without her this would be a much more dire situation.

Jessica Eads, Vice President for Enrollment Management, reported that our athletes are not all on a full scholarship, and many are weighing the choice to come to Hofstra with sometimes very small and sometimes no athletic scholarship whatsoever, over another university in our conference. By allowing student athletes the ability to pre-register makes the recruitment situation a little bit more equal in terms of the other schools in our conference.

Prof. Ellinger reported that ultimately pre-registration allows for student athletes to optimize the schedule that is set, so that they could be in the classroom which benefits everyone involved in the

academic process. It is really hard to get 25 students out on a field together, in some cases 40 students if you talk about squad sizes like Track and Field, and Lacrosse. Less stress is placed on the student athletes academically and athletically, if there are more student athletes gathered together at practices. A discussion followed. This item will be brought back to the Senate at the May 3 meeting.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Christopher Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that in addition to the items that we discussed today, and ongoing study on issues that were discussed at previous meetings, the committee produced a document promoting Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and the idea of culturally responsive teaching as ways of reaching out to faculty to help teach online better. The committee looked into what the University is doing on that front and thought that advancing those two ideas that for which a lot of materials are already available to faculty, would be the most productive strategy. They will present the document to the Chairs' Caucus and to the deans to help faculty understand how they could use those tools better in their teaching.
- B. Michael Heiss, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee had a very brief meeting in March and are creating ad hoc committees to discuss the two recognition systems that were mentioned previously and will have more to report for the next full Senate meeting.
- C. Kaylor Dimes, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that she is creating transition documents and preparing to help the next chair of the SAC. She also reported that the final draft to the revisions to the SAC bylaws will be presented at the next Senate meeting. Information for elections for student senators have been sent out.
- D. Craig Burnett, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee met with the Provost, Catherine Hennessy, Senior Vice President for Financial Affairs and Treasurer, and Dolores Fredrich, Senior Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel to talk about the budget. The general picture is pretty good considering the pandemic. We have balanced the budget and equities have returned and in fact increased. There is an expectation of declines in enrollments for the next year, which the university is budgeting for, but the furloughs are scheduled to end, and faculty will receive their deferred 3% raises which was negotiated. Some positions lost to the budget crunch should be restored when finances stabilize.
- E. Kevin Boston-Hill, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is altering some of the language with to the completion ratio and students who were on academic probation so that we don't necessarily penalize those students who are actually doing well from an average standpoint, but because of the number of courses that they're taking, their actual ratio is still a little low. He also reported that the committee will be looking into alternate ways of online testing, as some faculty are still a little reticent about how they deliver online exams and not very confident in the current method. The Special Committee on Educational and Information Technology is also looking into another program that can be used as well.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.