MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY


Absent: Campbell, Dippel, Gounelas, McFadden, Miller, Schlegel, Tomei, Wallace

Guests: Van-Ess Grant, Peden-Christodoulou, Ploran

I. The May 3, 2021, minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Report of the Interim Provost, Janet Lenaghan

Interim Provost Lenaghan convened the meeting by thanking the faculty, especially faculty leadership for all their support on her first six weeks as Interim Provost. She asks the University Senate help to ensure that the faculty fully participate in the Inauguration Week activities which include the keynote address for the academic symposia “Building and Bridging Our Future Together: Hofstra University and Our Communities” on Monday September 27 at 1pm in Adams Playhouse, delivered by Charles Blow who is a New York Times Journalist, CNN commentator, and Former Presidential Visiting Professor at Yale University. Over the course of the week there are ten different sessions each of them showcasing the collaboration between the university and our border communities.

Interim Provost Lenaghan reported that the festivities culminate with the inauguration of Hofstra’s ninth President, Dr. Susan Poser, on Friday, October 1 at 11am. A faculty breakfast will occur at 9:45 a.m. in front of the Mack Arena. After which, faculty will robe for the formal procession. She requests that faculty please RSVP not only for the breakfast but to ensure a robe is available if needed.

The program for the inauguration ceremony includes many opportunities to highlight our students. She thanked Karyn Valerius for running an incredible poetry contest. The winner will be reading their poem at the inauguration. In addition, a student artist’s painting in honor of the inauguration of Dr. Poser will be highlighted as well as a performance of Seasons of Love performed by Hofstra Drama and Dance students. In addition, the students will perform our alma mater and the national anthem.

The Interim Provost reported that the President has asked her to lead an initiative to engage the Hofstra community around the question of how we want to define ourselves as a university. Specifically, she wants us to think about our ambitions and tackle questions including what we want to become, how do we get there, and what are the range of possibilities in front of us. These conversations will begin with the faculty and plan to hold discussions with the committees of the University Senate as well as faculty from across the schools. The plan is to start the initiative after the inauguration and will be a priority over the fall and early spring semester. Everyone will be engaged in the conversation.

The Interim Provost noted that the President is incredibly supportive of the academic enterprise and as such we have received approval to begin searches for faculty lines. She has asked Cornell Craig, Chief Diversity, and Inclusion Officer, and Elfreda Blue, Vice Provost for Graduate and Undergraduate Studies, to visit those DPCs to provide training as we think about how we can be intentional in support of our initiatives relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
The Interim Provost reported that an email from Stavros Valenti, Vice Provost for Accreditation and Assessment, about the provost’s office Research Mixers Series which is a new initiative the provost’s office is doing to bring faculty together who are interested in similar topics. Vice Provost Valenti has asked faculty to send him the research topics that would be of interest and if they are willing to make an informal (without slides) 5- to 7-minute presentation about their research related to the topic. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, November 4\textsuperscript{th} at 4:30 in the Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Guthart Hall.

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

Prof. Caniano reported that the committee had their first meeting and will have more for the Senate in October.

**IV. New Business**

Jessica Eads, Vice President for Enrollment Management reported that her office has been working with faculty and the chairs to help manage their retention efforts and graduation rates. They have been working with departments when they notice things like substitution and waiver processes that they can help clean, they have brought the change of major forms online and other things they can do to help with getting students through to graduation as best as possible. One thing they have identified as a sticking point is when there are students who are counting as being enrolled when they aren’t (registering and not showing up to class or the university) These students count against us, part of the students that have not yet been retained or graduate. Her office is working very hard to identify those students as early as possible so they can be removed from our accounts and is asking for help from the academic areas to help. An email went out on Friday, and they will continue to reach out to faculty to help with this effort.

W. Houston Dougharty, Vice President for Student Affairs reported that over the summer our Dean of Students Gabrielle St. Leger, has left the university to become the Vice President of Student Affairs at LaSalle University in Philadelphia, and we congratulate her on that. There was a very successful search this summer for a new Dean of Students and introduced Michelle Van Ess Grant, who is our new Dean of Students and Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs. She comes to Hofstra from the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), where she has served as Director of Student Life for a decade.

**IV. Committee Reports**

A. Christopher Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is scheduling their first meeting and will update the Senate at its next meeting.

B. Patricia Welch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that the committee met on Friday and reviewed business from last year and began discussion of some initiatives for this year including reviewing and updating Faculty Policy Series #43 – Harassment Policy, participating in President Poser’s self-study project, reviewing, and creating some language on recognition systems for adjunct and part-time employees, and examining digital measures.

C. Caroline Schreiner reported for Kathleen Wallace, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, that the committee will be meeting at the end of the month and will set their agenda.
D. Kevin Boston-Hill, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee will meet this week but will be looking into the possibility of course tagging regarding our internationalization courses as well as the *Race and Ethnicity in America* courses to see the viability as well as it will plan out. The committee is very close to completing the wording for the completion ratio. They will also look more into *Gradescope* as a potential replacement for *Scantron* in a way to build assessments, grade assessments, and as a better efficiency tool when it comes to all things academic.

VI. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.