MINUTES OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, October 4, 2021


Absent: J. Lenaghan, K. Wallace

A. The minutes of the September 8, 2021 were unanimously approved.

B. Discussion Items
   1. Prof. Caniano convened the meeting by presenting a discussion item regarding Faculty Statute IX. C.
      2. the Secretary of the Faculty role which Sabrina Sobel, from the department of Biology was elected for in the spring.

      The bylaws stipulate the faculty have a Secretary of the Faculty whose role is basically the work that Caroline Schreiner, Secretary to the Senate does (send meeting notices, agenda and keep minutes to the faculty) aside from what it says in IX. C:
      
      “In the event that the position of Speaker of the Faculty becomes vacant, the elected Secretary to the Faculty shall serve as interim Speaker until a new Speaker is elected for a two-year term in the next spring semester.”

      Prof. Caniano reported that he would like to see the role become more meaningful, appointing the role as the chair of the Special Committee on Recruitment, Elections and Nominations (SCREAN). The discussion around this role has been occurring for quite some time. Ms. Schreiner has been running the nominations and elections process for years but feels having a faculty member communicate with deans and chairs on a more level playing field to find faculty to be involved in the University Senate is invaluable. Along with changing the role, discussion should also include changing the title to something along the lines of “Senate Director for Membership and Elections” to be clearer what the role is. It was noted that one of the tasks of this person would be what is stated in Faculty Statute IX. C. mentioned above.

      Patricia Welch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, suggested looking at the bylaws and constitution of other universities to see if they have any dual type positions of the sort. This item will be discussed further by the Faculty Affairs Committee.

   2. Comila Shahani-Denning, Interim Senior Vice Provost, gave an update on the future vision of Hofstra initiative that her office put a proposal together that is in the President’s Office. The plan is to do focus groups by school through each committee of the University Senate.

   3. Prof. Caniano reported that there is a better platform he would like to see the University Senate and its committees used called Microsoft Teams which allows for online meetings, as well as all relative documents such as agenda and minutes stored on the platform. He would like everyone to look at it and think about transitioning to the platform.

C. Committee Reports
   1. Prof. Boston-Hill, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee reported that the committee had its first meeting and are in the process of finalizing the language for the completion ratio that would hopefully fix some of the inconsistencies that currently exit between the dean’s list letters that go out to students the students who do well after getting the initial notice they are being
put on probation. The committee is also getting together with the Special Committee on Education and Research Technology to arrange a demonstration on Gradescope which should come up in a couple of weeks, to expose faculty members to the it and get their opinions.

Prf. Boston-Hill reported that the committee is also looking into how develop a little bit more of a clearer definition between the internationalization courses and cross-cultural courses when it comes to grouping them together for badging purposes and so forth, as well as bringing the Race & Ethnicity in America Courses together for the tagging purposes.

2. Prof. Eliot, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee will have their first meeting on Tuesday, October 5 at 9 am and the two main issues they will be taking up are double counting of credits. A case that motivates this that Elfreda Blue, Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Affairs, noticed is that in the School of Education students are sometimes encouraged to take graduate courses once they have completed a lot of their undergraduate program. However, if they continue at Hofstra for their graduate program, financial aid doesn’t pay for graduate credits that undergraduates take so sometimes they run into a situation where they expect to have courses pay for and have been misled. The committee is looking into whether some policy ways of is addressing this.

Prof. Eliot reported that the committee will also investigate delivery modality for courses. Faculty who has taken a training course on offering courses online have been allowed to teach remotely and have been eligible to receive a stipend for developing online courses. After the Covid disruption, many more courses are being offered fully or partly online, and some faculty might seek to use our new streaming technology to stream in-person courses without much additional content. The committee will look into whether the university needs some sort of screening or evaluation process for when a course is offered well and appropriately online.

3. Prof. Caniano reported for Kathleen Wallace, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, that at its last meeting, the Planning and Budget Committee had the administration bring up the faculty census and would like to look at these numbers and the statistics that drive Hofstra more regularly

4. Prof. Welch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, reported that in addition to the business reported at the last Senate Executive Committee, the committee will be:
   • reviewing and updating, Faculty Policy Series #43 - Hofstra University Harassment Policy
   • working on language regarding the LDA roster
   • participating in President Poser’s self-study initiative
   • working on understanding possible changes to digital measure and adjunct recognition systems.

5. Lila Campbell, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee is working on scheduling its first meeting. She would like the committee to work on ways to strengthen the relationship between the Student Government Association (SGA) and the SAC.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.