

MINUTES OF THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
THESE MINUTES SHOULD BE READ IN REFERENCE TO THE AGENDA OF THE DAY

Present: Alam, Anniballi, Bass, Boston-Hill, Campbell, Caniano, Chibuzo-Enwere, Craig, Dores, Eads, Eliot, Frisina, Galli, Geis, Gluck, Hernandez, Huang, Masnick, McCummings, McElroy, McFadden, Pandit, Riordan, Salem, Santangelo, Seirup, Shahani-Denning, Tompkins, Valerius, Wallace, Welch

Absent: Liang, Schlegel, Singh, J.

Guests: Basile, Cardona, Moore, Nirode, Singh, M. Van-Ess Grant

I. After some friendly amendments, the April 24, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Report of the Provost, Charlie Riordan

The provost convened the meeting by asking for a moment of silence to recognize and give a blessing to all of those who were lost on September 11, 2001, and the first responders who sacrificed not only on that day, but in the months and years to follow.

The provost reported that there are:

- 27 newly promoted and/or tenured faculty
- 38 new full-time faculty
- 4 new deans
 - HCLAS, Dean Eva Badowska, who started July 1
 - HPHS, Dean Reginald Alston who started August 1
 - School of Nursing and Physician Assistant Studies, Dean Renee McLeod-Sordjan
 - Law School - Interim Dean Julian Ku

Dean Searches:

- Library dean search- the search committee will be interviewing 12 semifinalists via Zoom within a week or so. From there the committee will be recommending finalists to come to campus and engage with the Hofstra community
- Law School dean search is on a similar, slightly staggered time scale and should be identifying candidates for semifinal interviews by the end of September. Finalists will be invited to campus as well.

The provost reported that in June, the Supreme Court issued their ruling on Students for Fair Admissions. Two cases were combined, one for public institutions represented by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and private universities represented by Harvard that effectively struck down affirmative action as a tool to be implemented in university admissions. While that ruling changes the way that some universities approach admissions, we don't see an impact to our law school and undergraduate admissions processes. Our commitment as an institution to build a sense of belonging & welcoming diverse populations to campus continues unabated. The provost recognized the important work that Cornell Craig, Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, and his team have been doing with our inclusive hiring practices and workshops, which will certainly continue to move forward.

The provost reminds everyone that the Presidential Symposium will be held on September 26-28. The topic is *Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education: Friend or Foe?*

- President Poser's State of the University Address will be held on Wednesday, September 27 at 1:00 p.m. in the Adams Playhouse
 - a campus picnic will follow in the Roosevelt Quad

A panel was also held for first-year students when they arrived on campus. Panelists included student senator Kashmiraa Pandit and SGA President Lincoln Annaballi who were very engaged with the students and well received.

The provost reported that the revisions to Faculty Statutes VII & IX, which were passed at the May full faculty meeting, were being further reviewed by the provost's office, legal counsel and the president's office who have suggested some minor changes. One change that will be implemented is to have chair of the Senate Executive Committee preside over Senate meetings. The way the statutes are currently written, the provost or designee presides over the meetings. Since these revisions have not yet been codified, the provost therefore delegates Chris Eliot, chair of the SEC to preside going forward.

III. Report of the Senate Executive Committee, Christopher Eliot

Prof. Eliot reported that this is the first time a faculty member has presided over the Senate in its history thanks to the combination of the Faculty Statute that was presented and support of the provost. In so far as a faculty member is presiding over the Senate going forward, it bears remarking that we can only work at the senate through the meaningful engagement of not only faculty, but also the students, the staff, and the administrators that we work with. Our policy recommendations ultimately require the signature of the provost and the president. He hopes this will be a productive arrangement.

Prof. Eliot reported on the updates to Faculty Statutes VII & IX which were previously discussed. Faculty Statute VII concerns the organization of this body (Senate) and Faculty Statute IX concerns the organization of faculty meetings. The senate and full faculty passed these revisions, they were being reviewed by legal counsel over the summer, and the provost sent them back with some recommended changes, as he's mentioned. There are probably a couple of outstanding substantive issues on which there is a difference between the version passed, and the changes that were recommended by the provost Office. In addition, some changes are merely a function of language. He summarized two meaningful changes:

- the version of Faculty Statute IX regarding full faculty meetings recommended that the full faculty would normally close part of each meeting to create an opportunity for faculty to discuss some issues without the presence of the administration in the interest of having open conversation in which people feel comfortable participating. We will need to resolve whether that's a priority for faculty or whether some recommended new language that doesn't allow that as normal way of proceeding at full faculty meetings but allows that it could happen occasionally whether that's acceptable language to the faculty.
- the language included the idea that the president would be invited to address the full faculty, as has always been the case. The provost's office recommended a new arrangement under which the president automatically visits the full faculty.

These recommendations will be with William Nirode, Speaker of the Faculty and he will bring them to the full faculty meeting for discussion.

Prof. Eliot reported on issues that are before the Senate Executive Committee:

- trying to improve the communication to and from the senate. In particular, trying to figure out what is the most straightforward infrastructure for having senators communicate with their constituents
 - a suggestion was made to provide a brief summary of senate activity after each meeting for senators to use when communicating with their constituents
- working on standards for sub-committees and special committees to report to the senate on their recommended actions. It would be valuable for the senate to hear more regularly from these various committees, and know that they are active

Prof. Eliot reported that last winter, the university held a teaching and learning conference which was co-sponsored by the Senate and the Provost's Office with most of the work being done by the members of the conference planning committee, which was co-chaired by Prof. Caniano, former chair of the SEC and Mitchell Kase, Director of Educational & Research Technology Services. The provost's office has suggested that they will support this workshop happening again this winter. Expressions of interest in participating in the planning committee will be welcome. The planning includes a set of presentations for faculty about how to do our teaching and learning better, not exclusively with technology but including technology.

Prof. Eliot took a moment to welcome all the new elected senators and highlighted the structure of the senate. He reported that and anyone can bring business to the senate, and input is always welcomed. Elected senators can therefore be receptive to their constituent's bringing business, as well as collect input from their constituents about what the priority of this policy making body ought to be. While anyone can bring business, the hard work of the Senate in terms of analysis and development of policy is done by committees, which have a productive combination of senators, senators-at-large and advisors. Many if the advisors come from administration areas of expertise relevant to the kinds of policy being made. He advises members of committees to review its membership in terms of the kinds of expertise that are at the table and who the voting members are, because not all the members of the committee are voting, and the work of developing policy and analyzing policy ought to be done primarily by the voting members. Information about membership of the various committees is available on the senate website, as well as committee bylaws.

There are five standing committees, which are coordinated by the Senate Executive Committee (SEC).

- Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee (UAAC), chaired by Jessica Santangelo
- Graduate Academic Affairs Committee (GAAC), chaired by Li Huang
- Planning and Budget Committee(P&B), chaired by Kathleen Wallace
- Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC), chaired by Patricia Welch
- Student Affairs Committee (SAC), chaired by Lila Campbell

The SEC's job is to take up the business from the various committees and to assign business

back to the various committees. The SEC consists of the chairs of the five standing committees previously mentioned. Recommendations from various committees come to the SEC, and then sometimes with modifications, are recommended to the full senate. The senate then usually sends forward its recommendations to the full faculty. Depending on the nature of the business, resolutions of the full faculty then normally have to be reviewed by legal counsel, signed by the provost and the president of the university. In some cases, by the Board of Trustees. This body (the senate) is the one that makes the recommendations, coming from the hard work done by its committees.

In addition to the standing committees, the senate has other sub and special committees:

- Academic Review Committee
 - subcommittee of UAAC
- Library Committee
 - subcommittee of P&B
- Environmental Priorities Committee
 - subcommittee of P&B
- Special Committee on Recruitment, Elections, and Nominations (SCREAN)
- Special Committee on Athletic Policy
- Special Committee on the Academic Calendar
- Special Committee on Grievances
- Special Committee on Environmental Health and Safety
- Special Committee on Education and Research Technology

At the senate itself, the elected senators are the voting members, but participation is always welcomed from senators-at-large, who's primary role is participating in the committee they are appointed to. While they are voting members of the committee they serve, they are not voting members of the senate body.

Prof. Eliot reported that if anyone has questions about how the senate works, or ideas on how it can work better, feel free to contact him.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Jessica Santangelo, chair of the Undergraduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that committee meets for the first time on Friday, September 15. They have created two ad-hoc committees. One will be exploring the possibility of adding an 18th credit to full-time tuition. They meet on Wednesday, September 13. The second is an ad-hoc committee on tutoring. This comes from both students and faculty, who raised some questions and ideas on how to best ensure that students can access tutoring.

The committee as a whole will be approving revisions to the study abroad policy language, which were suggested by Warren Frisina, Dean of Honors College, last spring, as well as continuing its work on the course repeat option in the bulletin, looking at ways to make it more equitable for students.

- B. Prof. Welch, chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee reported that last year the committee revised Faculty Policy Series #49 - Course and Teacher Ratings (CTRs) which was passed by the president. The committee will continue to review various Faculty Policy Series and recommend updates as needed. Many are outdated. The committee will also continue to work on Faculty Policy Series #43 - Hofstra University Harassment Policy, adding some protection for adjunct faculty.
- C. Prof. Wallace, chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported that the committee is finishing up a proposal for undergraduate student conference attendance funding. The committee will be meeting within the next two weeks to set their agenda which include items from last year such as doing some research into peer schools that are R2 institutions. They want to get a good sense from faculty at these institutions, what their experience has been, what their teaching load is, what the structure of the faculty is and any other relevant factors that might help us as we think about transitioning to becoming a more robust R2 institution. The committee will also be following up with the Library Subcommittee, as well as Joseph Barkwill, Vice President for Facilities and Operations to discuss the external reviewer report of the library recommendations and Student Center renovations. The committee also plans to meet with Cynthia Langin, Senior Associate Provost Institutional Research & Strategic Analysis.
- D. Li Huang, chair of the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, reported that the committee plan to meet next week and will continue some items from last semester:
- reviewing Faculty Policy Series #11G - Procedures for Handling Violations of the Honor Code by Graduate Students at Hofstra University and considering the details of a proposed merger with FPS #11, which deals with the undergraduate population since the two policies are very similar.
 - discussion on the Nursing School's proposed alternative grading scheme, there are still a lot of concern on how to make it more equivalent or fair compared to other grading schemes.
 - reviewing procedures for dissertations and defenses

The committee plans to gather ideas from different units regarding graduate education, in response to the university's direction to an R2 institution. They plan to play a more active role in helping this process along.

- E. Lila Campbell, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that the committee should be meeting within the next few weeks. She reported that the committee is very diverse this year with some great students involved. The committee will work on fostering their relationship with the Student Government Association (SGA). Lincoln Annaballi, SGA President has agreed to be a part of the committee. She also reported that she met with Jessica Eads, Vice President for Student Enrollment, Engagement and Success, to discuss items related to the student advisory panel.

V. New Business

An issue was brought up about the parking lot between California avenue and Brower Hall being changed to special permit parking for most of the day. A discussion followed.

Lincoln Annaballi, President of the Student Government Association, reported that they are very excited this year to work with the Student Affairs Committee, and University Senate as a whole. They had a very active summer preparing for the year and their team has had a very successful first semester. They are looking forward to innovating some ways they can hear concerns from their peers and how to best advocate for them. Some initiatives they will continue to work on this year include:

- 18th credit initiative
- helping students with the transition from Blackboard to Canvas
- continuing work reforming funding and organization governance policies
- creating an ADA accessible map of the campus that can be incorporated in the Hofstra Public Safety app
- continue to advocate for extended hours of operation
 - thanks to Vice President Eads, hours were extended at Hofstra USA and the Physical Fitness Center
- the Hofstra Yearbook Committee has been established

President Annaballi reported that SGA co-sponsored an event with Student Counseling Services last week and because of their participation, they went from having 14 new contacts to over 120. He is extremely proud of SGA's Wellness and Safety Committee for working on that.

Prof. Santangelo asked about strategic planning and what the senate's role should be. The provost reported that the president will talk more comprehensively about strategic planning at the State of the University. There will be a role for a variety of groups across campus, including the University Senate. The Strategic Directions Committee that was constituted last year and worked on the RFP's will have a role moving forward as well the as yet to be constituted committees that are going to help us move forward on the theme areas that have come out of the vision exercise from two years ago. A discussion followed.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.