

MINUTES OF  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
May 1, 2018

The fourth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2017-2018 academic year was called to order by Prof. Jonathan Karp, Judaic Studies, at 11:47 am.

Prof. Karp expressed his sorrow over the tragic loss of two of our students and his hope that these tragic events will ultimately help unite our campus and enable us to become a safer and more loving community.

1. Minutes

After no discussion, the minutes of the March 27, 2018 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Obituary Notices

Prof. Karp notified the body that Dean Sharon Brehm (Harpur College) and Prof. Richard Leighton (Economics) passed away. Prof. Karp asked for a moment of silence to remember these colleagues.

3. Approval of Degree Candidates

3,489 graduates have filed an application for degree (472 graduate students; 3,017 undergraduate students). Motion was made and seconded to approve. List was approved by a unanimous hand vote.

4. Curriculum

a. Musical Theatre BFA

This is a new program for our consideration. Prof. Tommy lafrate, Theatre, reported that three years of research was done to prepare this program proposal. The program contains classes (acting, singing, music, and dance) and flexibility for our graduates' success in this program.

Prof. Fernando Guzman, member of the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee, reported that the Diversity Committee has reviewed the proposal and feels it comes short of what is required of any new program proposal, according to a Senate motion passed on December 6, 2016, which reads, "*All new program proposals coming to the Faculty Senate should include a statement about how the proposed program will address concerns about diversity and inclusion. This statement should include a plan for recruiting and retaining students from underrepresented groups, for recruiting faculty from underrepresented groups (if such faculty are not already included in the program), and for retaining these faculty.*" Prof. Guzman suggested it would be most helpful for the department to provide additional specificity regarding how diversity will be addressed in the new proposed program related to the recruitment and retention of historically under-represented students and faculty. The Diversity Committee recommends to the Senate that this proposal be sent back to be corrected on its deficiencies regarding diversity. Prof. Guzman additionally noted that the Diversity Committee has no objection to approving this conditionally.

Prof. Iafrate noted that there is room for diverse groups. He thought there was something that was included in the proposal, and the department will be doing recruitment at various schools focusing on minorities. Most of the program's work cannot be done without diverse faculty and students for musical offerings. Prof. Guzman did admit that there was a clause about student diversity, but there was nothing about faculty diversity (what the current situation is, how they propose to implement) and that this is the type of statements the Diversity Committee was looking for in the proposal. Prof. Iafrate had assumed that the program would not be approved without these additional positions anyway.

Prof. Karp noted that the Senate can make conditional approval with modifications from the Diversity Committee or make a formal approval. A motion was made and seconded for conditional approval and to improve the proposal as suggested by the Diversity Committee. The Theatre Department is asked to work with the Diversity Committee. After no more discussion, this was approved with the conditional proviso with 42 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention.

5. New business

- a. Binghamton University Sustainability Plan – Prof. Carl Lipo presented the plan. A Climate Action Plan for the campus was drawn up in 2009 to address sustainability and an action plan committee was formed to discuss implementation of the plan. We have reduced carbon footprint since then. Two years ago, President Stenger asked how we wanted to move forward and suggested perhaps having a sustainability plan. That committee and students in Prof. Pamela Mischen's class came up with a sustainability plan. This plan has been endorsed by President Stenger, the Senior Officers Group, and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC). The committee is now looking for faculty support in order to move forward in making this a priority. Prof. Karp noted that we were also asking for comments and suggestions. Prof. Dick Naslund, Geology, asked if there was a cost analysis in order to comply with this plan. Prof. Lipo said the plan does not have a financial analysis, but they are looking at how we can use existing resources. A lot of the work that our Physical Facilities has done is cost savings anyway. Prof. Starks, FSEC chair, noted that the FSEC met with Prof. Mischen and responses to any questions were very strong, and it is evident that these goals are certainly aspirational and obtainable. He noted that we should be looking at this plan on whether it can produce results and if it would be achievable within the time frame if we implement the right kind of plans. After no other discussion, the plan was approved by a unanimous vote.
- b. Indigenous Peoples Day – This resolution comes to us from the SUNY University Faculty Senate (UFS) equity and inclusion committee. The resolution was approved by the UFS and they are asking campuses for support. Prof. Karp read the summary of the resolution and noted that this comes to the Senate not having been endorsed or not endorsed by the FSEC. There was wide agreement in FSEC that this should be discussed here. One of FSEC's main points was that the second Monday in October which is Columbus is not a holiday for university faculty.

Prof. George Catalano, Biomedical Engineering, told members that he is Italian American, both of his parents were immigrants and very proud of their heritage. His

father was embarrassed by Christopher Columbus but spoke of other Italians very proudly. Prof. Catalano strongly supports this resolution as he feels that Columbus was responsible for the genocide in this part of the world and should not be honored.

Prof. Dana Stewart, Romance Language, agreed with Prof. Catalano, and asked for a brief summary from FSEC on their discussions. Prof. Karp noted that a suggestion had been made in FSEC to use both Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day on the calendar, that it would be more educational to juxtapose the two than to remove all traces of the former. While Prof. Karp appreciates Prof. Catalano's remarks regarding Italian-Americans, it is also the case that Columbus Day historically represented an opportunity for American Catholics, a heavily oppressed group in earlier periods of US history, to assert belonging in American society. Prof. Karp indicated his belief that Columbus Day would eventually disappear, but that this should occur through discussion and debate rather than through Senate fiat.

Prof. Starks reported that at issue in the FSEC discussion was the fact that for most faculty (except for Library faculty), Columbus Day is not a holiday on our faculty calendar and not represented on the faculty schedule. We may want to take the time to consult with UUP and CSEA before we take this off our calendar since we do not represent all employees.

Mr. Patrick Doyle, PSS representative to the Faculty Senate, reported that PSS did not pass agreement on this resolution.

Prof. Ricardo Laremont, Political Science and Sociology, noted that in principle he is in favor of recognizing both, but at the same time not disengaging the Italian American community. Since we have an indigenous peoples nation quite near us -- the Onondaga Nation near Syracuse -- perhaps faculty invite them down to have a meaningful conversation with them about being an indigenous people. We could transform this into a university-wide event in which we engage with people who are not represented on our campus.

Prof. Catalano noted that Italian Americans do not have a monolithic perspective about Columbus so we could engage with Italian Americans also.

Prof. Karp noted there is merit in keeping Columbus Day along with Indigenous Peoples Day. The motion in front of us is to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

Prof. Sarah Gerke, Music, asked if we have other days on our calendar that recognizes other communities of people, for example, St. Patrick's Day or Cinco de Mayo. Prof. Leslie Gates, Sociology, said the proposal is to replace Columbus Day but hopes that we continue discussions on a counter proposal.

Prof. Starks reviewed the points in the resolution. The last point is the strongest where the president of the University Faculty Senate is charged to bring this matter forward to UUP and SUNY Board of Trustees requesting that they change the name of the holiday on the calendar. He believes that missing is a dialog among staff.

Prof. Ruth VanDyke, Anthropology, said that Columbus Day is not intended to celebrate genocide but celebrating it is a reminder of the genocide. There was a protest staged in Anthropology on Christopher Columbus with posters protesting the genocide; it is a sore point. If we don't support this resolution, it's a slap to indigenous people on campus.

After no more discussion, Prof. Karp raised the question to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day. The resultant vote was 34 in favor, 7 opposed, with 3 abstentions. The resolution passes.

- c. Library budget cuts – Dean Kendrick discussed budget cuts in the Library and the challenging budget for next year. The Library must prepare for a budget reduction. The bulk of the Library budget is collections and people. It is very difficult to cut people power, so they are looking at collections. They are trying to hold budget flat so they are looking at subscriptions for journals, etc., items that have high cost per use. The threshold is \$75 per use and if the cost is more than \$75, it was put on the list. The challenge is that subscriptions are on an annual basis, with many renewals in July and August that will be cut in the summer. The Library will reassess in the fall and then have conversations to look at the entire list. In the short term, Dean Kendrick invites faculty to focus on the short list of cuts and he will be scheduling meetings in May to discuss items. Dean Curtis noted that the entire faculty will receive the list, although it is not department specific.

6. Election of 2018-2019 Slate of Officers

Prof. Starks noted that the Senate Vice Chair and Secretary are elected annually, and that the Vice Chair should be prepared to stand in for the Senate Chair. Prof. Cassandra Bransford, Social Work, is on the slate for Vice Chair. Prof. Starks called for nominations for Secretary. Prof. George Catalano, Biomedical Engineering, was nominated and he accepted the nomination. After no more nominations, the slate was put to a vote and was approved unanimously.

7. Announcements

- a. Campus activism – This resolution comes from the Binghamton chapter of UUP which asks the Senate to stand with UUP in solidarity by issuing a similar resolution. The Senate passed a statement “Our Mutual Principles of Free Expression and Inclusiveness” in November 2017 and the FSEC felt that this statement was compatible with the UUP resolution.

Prof. Sean Massey, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, gave background on the intent and goals of the resolution. There has been a dramatic shift in the political landscape by activists in communities and also in campus communities. Activism activities come from faculty, professional staff, and students. The Binghamton UUP passed this resolution and it will be considered at the statewide UUP meeting in May. Prof. Massey said there have been some slight revisions to the resolution that will be presented but it has no significant changes. Prof. Massey agrees with the Senate statement but feels it does not focus on campus activism.

Prof. Guzman noted that the Diversity Committee does support this resolution, although it does agree that the Senate statement does come up short and feels it is necessary to explicitly ask for respect of campus activism.

Prof. Guzman presents the following resolution from the Diversity Committee.

*“The Binghamton University Faculty Senate stands in solidarity with the local chapter of UUP and supports their “Resolution in Support of Campus Activism”. Moreover, we urge the SUNY-wide Faculty Senate to stand with statewide UUP in support of campus activism. Copy of this motion, and the Binghamton Faculty Senate statement of Nov. 28, 2017 on “Our Mutual Principles of Free Expression and Inclusiveness” are to be sent to UUP President Frederick Kowal, Chancellor Kristina Johnson, and Governor Andrew Cuomo.”*

Prof. Massey agrees with this resolution. Prof. Karp voiced concern about some of the “whereas” statements that remain unsubstantiated. It would certainly be terrible if these allegations were substantiated, but the Senate must do its due diligence to provide evidence regarding these incidents. This proposal has different parts that are complex and in some cases require the administration to endorse not just the right to protest but the substance of any particular, which is not appropriate. It is the role of the administration to create a campus atmosphere where people feel comfortable protesting without fear. Prof. Karp suggests that we do not support this resolution.

Prof. Pamela Smart, Art History, and UFS Senator, agrees with Prof. Karp and notes that the language advising directive to the governor and the chancellor may be very problematic in the future. Prof. Hanes states that the “whereas” statements refer to serious matters that the Senate should consider.

It was noted that the UUP agrees with Prof. Smart’s statement about the directive. Prof. Smart solidifies that the language does matter and would like to see the final language.

After no more discussion, a vote was called with 4 in favor, 19 opposed, 13 abstentions. Support of the resolution does not pass.

#### 8. Reports

Reports from John Starks, FSEC chair, and Barry Jones, UFS Senator, will be sent to Senators separately.

After no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:01 pm.

Present: Christina Balderamma-Durbin, Anne Brady, Cassandra Bransford, George Catalano, Leon Cosler, Weiying Dai, Daniel Thomas Davis, Marvin Diaz, Nikolay Dimitrov, Jill Dixon, Patrick Doyle, Mark Fowler, Leslie Gates, Sarah Gerck, Arianna Gerstein, Joseph Graney, Christopher Hanes, Kevin Hatch, Brendan Hennessey, Noah Henry, Stephanie Hess, Sharon Holmes, Olivia Homes, Mattias Iser, Andy Jean-Baptiste,

Faculty Senate meeting

May 1, 2018

Page 6

Barry Jones, Jonathan Karp, Changhong Ke, Adam Laats, Leslie Lander, Alistair Lees, Stephen Levy, Harold Lewis, Carl Lipo, Richard MacKenney, Claudia Marques, Marcin Mazur, Natalija Mijatovic, Carol Miles, Richard Naslund, Donald Nieman, Vladimir Nikulin, SB Park, Carolyn Pierce, Andrew Scholtz, Pamela Smart, John Starks, Dana Stewart, Ruth VanDyke, Adrian VasIU, Qi Wang, Alexi Zentner, Harald Zils, Melissa Zinkin

Excused: Kenneth Chiu, Benjamin Fordham, Katja Kleinberg, Anthony Meder, Sumantra Sarkar, Yan Zhang

Absent: Nancy Abashian, Laura Anderson, Serdar Atav, Anne Bailey, Elizabeth Casteen, Manas Chatterji, Zu Yan Chen, Eric Cotts, Raviraj Deshmukh, Patricia DiLorenzo, Deborah Elliston, Heather Fiumera, John Havard, James Jentsch, Hyeyoung Kang, Kristina Lambright, Richard Lee, Brett Levinson, J. Koji Lum, Daniel Magelby, Nagendra Nagarur, Nkiru Nzegwu, Harvey Stenger, Erin Washburn, Hong Zhang