

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
December 3, 2019

The second Faculty Senate meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year was called to order by Associate Librarian Jill Dixon at 12:02 pm.

1. Minutes

The following changes to the November 12, 2019 minutes were requested by Prof. Andrew Walkling, Theatre:

- Page 1, Item 1 – correct Prof. Walkling’s spelling of name
- Page 2, Item 5a – Change “negation” to “negotiation”
- Page 3, Item 5a – add “for only a short time” to the sentence in the next to last paragraph

Motion was made and seconded to approve the suggested changes. After no additional discussion, minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Obituary notices

Ms. Dixon notified the body that Dean Sheldon N. Grebstein, Harpur College, passed away. Ms. Dixon asked for a moment of silence to remember our colleague.

3. New business

a. Statement from Faculty Senate Diversity Committee

Prof. Fernando Guzman, co-chair of the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee, read the statement from the Diversity Committee dated November 25, 2019. This statement appeared in the November 25, 2019 issue of Pipedream.

b. Resolution on Freedom of Expression and Culture of Civility

Prof. Barry Jones, chair of Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC), noted that the FSEC felt it should address some of the issues that happened on campus on November 15 and 18 and cited the following reasons:

- We are still sorting through exactly what happened; administration and student leaders and faculty are trying to get the full picture of events; some aspects are not totally clear.
- There could be more instances of events such as these especially with the national election coming up next year.
- The statement from our Diversity Committee was very timely. FSEC wanted to issue a more general statement about principles and rights versus responsibilities. A subcommittee (Professors Guzman, Sinclair, and Zinkin) presented a draft statement to FSEC. After a long discussion, the FSEC approved unanimously the resolution before the Senate today.

Our first amendment allows for offensive speech but we do not condone it. This is very important although offensive speech is one’s right. We want fair and equal treatment of all students and student organizations and want to promote a culture of civility.

Prof. Jones suggested that the Senate also explore opportunities to address

controversial issues in the coming year. We may want to hold a similar event to the one that Prof. Jonathan Karp, Judaic Studies, held last year on free speech.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. After no discussion, it was unanimously approved with 0 abstentions and 0 opposed.

4. Summary of Annual Reports of 2018-2019 Faculty Senate standing committees

Ms. Dixon thanked members for their service on committees and requested that if anyone was asked to serve on a committee to consider doing so. The charge for each committee is listed in the appendix of the Faculty Bylaws. Ms. Dixon gave a quick overview of each committee's business for 2018-2019.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the reports. Reports were approved unanimously.

5. Reports

a) Prof. Jones, chair of the FSEC, reported that the FSEC met 11 times with a 12th meeting to be held on December 10. Over the course of the semester, the FSEC met with the President, the Provost, two Vice Provosts, and four Deans among others. Specifically with:

- Andrea MacArgel, Director of Instructional Design Services, CLT to discuss the SUNY/NYS Open Education Resources (OER) Initiative and to follow up on the LMS Pilot program.
- Dean Elizabeth Chilton, Harpur College; Sheila Doyle, Executive Director, BU Foundation; and Kelli Huth, Director, Center for Civic Engagement to discuss Carnegie Engagement Classification, and Assistant Dean Ignarri, Harpur College, joined to discuss Harpur's graduate enrollment targets for selected departments, the actual enrollments in those departments, and what lessons we learned over the previous graduate recruitment cycle.
- President Stenger discussed a wide range of issues including the budget, enrollments, Excelsior, Physical Facilities, and the OT, PT, and Speech Path programs.
- Vice Provost Santos and Provost Nieman to discuss PRODiG.
- Associate Dean Klin, Harpur College, to discuss Final Exam policies.
- Dean Gloria Meredith, Pharmacy School, about proposed changes to the School of Pharmacy Bylaws regarding policies for converting clinical track faculty to tenure track and also to discuss general trends in the pharmacy profession and current developments in the school.
- Sustainable Communities TAE co-chairs Prof. Rob Holahan, Environmental Studies, and Prof. Carl Lipo, Anthropology, to discuss the campus sustainability plan and also specifically to discuss the addition of a sustainability category (equivalent to the service learning category) in order to more accurately collect data to track the percentage of students who take a sustainability course prior to graduation.

- IGMAP co-directors Prof. Nadia Rubaii, Public Administration, and Prof. Max Pensky, Philosophy, to discuss the creation of a new master's degree program.
- Dean Curtis Kendrick, University Libraries, to discuss Science Direct and the third floor Library renovations.
- Vice Provost James Pitarresi to discuss micro-credentials.
- Randall Edouard, Interim Dean of Students. Our original intent was to discuss the Town Gown Advisory Board, but in fact we ended up mainly talking about the recent disturbances on campus.

Among the FSEC's activities this semester, we interviewed candidates for the Directors of OT and Speech Pathology and made recommendations to Dean Ortiz. We had previously appointed faculty to search committees for the Chief Diversity Officer and for the Dean of Watson searches. The FSEC also met with the search consultants for the Chief Diversity Officer. The FSEC also named new members to the Town Gown Advisory Board.

Key issues explored this semester by the FSEC were:

- Consensual Relationship Policy -- Early in the semester, the senate leadership followed up on concerns regarding SUNY's new Consensual Relationship Policy, which became effective on September 5. Ultimately, there was no role for shared governance in the adoption of this policy, but the Senate leadership has concerns about the policy, which we have relayed to Human Resources and our administration.
- PRODiG proposal -- As mentioned above, FSEC followed up with the administration on our campus's PRODiG proposal.
- Carnegie's Engagement Classification -- Throughout the semester, we have been considering the proposal to seek Carnegie's Engagement Classification. We have sought to better understand the concept of engagement, the role of shared governance in achieving the classification, and the potential benefits of the classification. We have received proposals to modify the tenure and promotion standards to reflect engagement as defined by Carnegie and we are considering them. Ms. Dixon and Prof. Jones plan to meet with Prof. Pamela Mischen and the Provost before the end of the semester to further the discussion. Some concerns were raised at the recent Harpur Forum with the President and Provost.
- School of Pharmacy Bylaws -- The Pharmacy School is considering revisions to their school's bylaws. The proposed changes were considered by the Senate Bylaws Review Committee and the FSEC plans to discuss their report in the last meeting of the semester.
- Final Exam Policy -- FSEC has drafted a revised Final Exam Policy and will be discussing the draft language in the last meeting of the semester.
- Sustainability classification for courses -- FSEC considered a proposed sustainability classification for courses and is awaiting a formal proposal from Associate Dean Lipo with mechanics on how the course designation process would work with clear descriptions for the two categories/levels, the process for a course to get the designation, and who makes the final decision.

- Nobel Prize for Chemistry – FSEC approved a resolution commemorating Stan Whittingham’s Nobel Prize for Chemistry. Binghamton’s delegation also submitted a version of the resolution to the SUNY UFS, which was unanimously adopted.
- MS in Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention -- FSEC approved the MS in Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention which was then approved by the Senate at its November 12 meeting.
- Joint Standing Committee on Research Computing – FSEC is developing a proposal for a new Joint Standing Committee on Research Computing. The charge has been approved and FSEC is now working out details on the committee’s membership. A proposal will be ready for the first Senate meeting in the spring 2020 semester.
- Micro-Credentials -- We plan to launch a new Task Force on Micro-Credentials early next semester.
- Elsevier – FSEC approved the University Faculty Senate Resolution 183-04-01: Support for SUNY Negotiations for a fair and reasonable contract with Elsevier, which was subsequently approved by the Senate at its November 12 meeting.
- Freedom of Expression and Culture of Civility – FSEC has been considering the impacts of recent events on campus with discussions about free speech, freedom of expression, and academic freedom as well as issues of civility on campus. FSEC passed a resolution on Freedom of Expression and Culture of Civility which was passed by the Senate today.

Prof. Barry Jones noted that if any Senators have concerns or know of items that one feels should be discussed to please contact him or chair Dixon.

- b. Prof. Sara Reiter, University Faculty Senator, reported on topics of interest discussed during the October 11-12, 2019 University Faculty Senate plenary meeting in Albany, NY.
- SUNY Online – The pilot project is working with nine already existing programs with 234 students enrolled. The goal is to capture back the 40,000 New York resident online students in other programs. Supposedly, this new initiative will have no impact on Open SUNY or other online programs offered locally, but it is not clear how market conflicts will be handled or how revenue will be shared with campuses hosting SUNY Online programs. There is concern with the proposed use of artificial intelligence solutions to grade and respond to student comments in online courses – SUNY Online programs must be scalable to enrollments of 1,000. It is clear that the efforts to launch SUNY Online have been the main concern of the Provost and that other issues are on hold.
 - General Education – Now that General Education reform has been through two preliminary stages – a White Paper and a Green Paper – the SUNY Provost plans to appoint a task force that will make recommendations on some issues as early as spring 2020.
 - Seamless Transfer – The review of seamless transfer paths will start with 11 pathways identified by a survey last year. We do not have all of these majors at BU

- but ones we do have include: Biology, Business, Geology, Mathematics, Nursing, Physics, Psychology, and Theatre.
- Many campuses are searching for Presidents this year, so open versus closed searches is a topic of concern.
 - Student mental health and wellness is a major concern this year with a conference planned.
 - Questions for the Chancellor – In responding to the perennial question from the University Centers about what SUNY is doing to support liberal arts, the Chancellor mentioned a forthcoming initiative involving History and also a graduate fellowship program.

Hearing no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 pm.

Present: Saligrama Agnihotri, Seden Akcinaroglu, Laura Anderson, Nathanael Andrade, Allan Arkush, Hilary Becker, Aaron Beedle, Peter Borgesen, Brian Callahan, Nicole Cameron, Subimal Chatterjee, Paul Chiarot, Seokheun, Choi, Leon Ciu, Leon Cosler, Scott Craver, Jill Dixon, Patrick Doyle, Mark Fowler, Ann Fronczek, Neyda Gilman, Thomas Goodheart, Jennifer Gordon, Christof Grewer, Fernando Guzman, Norah Henry, Robert Holahan, Douglas Holmes, Aleshia Huber, Sha Jin, Barry Jones, Alistair Lees, Leslie Lander, Andrea MacArgel, Thomas McDonough, Tomonari Nishikawa, Judith Quaranta, Sara Reiter, Joshua Reno, John Santare, Anton Schick, Paul Schleuse, Andrew Scholtz, Kent Schull, David Schuster, Thomas Sinclair, Elizabeth Skaggs, Roberta Strippoli, Andrew Walkling, Bruce White, Stan Whittingham, Lei Yu, Hong Zhang, Yan Zhang, Melissa Zinkin

Excused: Jeffner Allen, Michael Armstrong, Sharon Bryant, Lubna Chaudhry, Anne Clark, Marilynn Desmond, Carl Gelderloos, Blazo Kovacevic, Steven Lynn, Natesha Smith, Harvey Stenger

Absent: Nancy Appelbaum, John Baust, Robin Best, Lisa Blitz, Ana Maria Candela, Hwan-Sik Choi, Sung Chung, Eric Cotts, Lois Einhorn, Nicole Fenty, Leslie Gates, Jeroen Gerrits, Thomas Glave, Albrecht Inhoff, James Jentsch, John Suk Young Kang, Bryan Kirschen, Thomas Kulp, Patricia Lespinasse, Carl Lipo, Jean Pierre Mileur, Donald Nieman, Timothy Singler, David Wilson