

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
December 4, 2018

The second Faculty Senate meeting of the 2018-2019 academic year was called to order by Prof. Jonathan Karp, Judaic Studies, at 11:46 am.

1. Minutes

After no discussion, the minutes of the October 23, 2018 meeting were approved.

2. Obituary notices

Prof. Karp notified the body that Prof. Geraldine Allerman, Nursing, and Prof. Michael Horowitz, Anthropology, passed away. Prof. Karp asked for a moment of silence to remember these colleagues.

3. Open Access Policy

The Open access policy was discussed at our October 23 meeting. Dean Kendrick was present at that meeting to answer any questions and address concerns. The policy clearly spells out how permissions and the use of materials would function in open access format.

Prof. Leslie Gates, Sociology, asked for an explanation of the difference between “opt in” and “opt out.” Dean Kendrick explained that for “opt in” faculty are not required to submit their publications to the library repository, but it is suggested. With “opt out” the default is that everybody submits to the repository unless they get a waiver. Prof. Karp noted that the proposal we have in front of us reads “...we pledge to share/submit scholarly articles to the Library who will then review publisher self-archiving policies for each article and post in the Libraries’ Open Repository @ Binghamton (ORB) as permitted”. The language implies that this is an “opt out” policy.

After no more discussion, this was approved by a vote of 31 in favor with 1 opposed and 5 abstentions.

4. Summary of Annual Reports of 2017-2018 Faculty Senate standing committees and others

Prof. Karp thanked all committee chairs and members for all their hard work on these committees. The Committee on Committees urges faculty to look favorably on any requests to serve on committees. Committee work is important and is greatly appreciated. Serious and substantive work of these committees can be seen in these reports. Prof. Karp suggested that everyone review the Budget Review Committee report due to the current budget situation. After no discussion, all reports were unanimously accepted.

5. Curriculum – Nursing RN to BS

Dean Mario Ortiz explained that the school had been offering this program under the umbrella of the baccalaureate program. New York State requested that the school send in a separate HEGIS code. At the same time, we are proposing to move the program online to be in line with national programs. We are the only SUNY research center that does not offer an online program.

Prof. Fernando Guzman, chair of the Diversity Committee, reported that the Diversity Committee reviewed the proposal and made suggestions to Dean Ortiz and Prof. Gale

Spencer who were receptive to the suggestions. The Diversity Committee has proposed a diversity statement that is not in the proposal here but will be included in materials sent to SUNY.

Prof. Guzman read a statement from a Diversity Committee member that reads "I am impressed -- they did an excellent job! In fact I think we should ask them if we may show their proposal as an example to other people who are developing proposals".

Prof. Tom Sinclair, Public Administration, asked for an explanation of the movement of the program to a fully online program as it relates to student retention and the ability of students to complete the program. Dean Ortiz noted that we did not accept any students for this program in fall 2018 which shows the situation for professional nurses. Decker's retention rate is 94% to 96% for all nursing programs. These students will graduate within six semesters since they are attending part time while they are working. Prof. Karp noted the concern of increasing the presentation of material on-line. President Stenger and Provost Nieman have reported that online delivery needs to be an element in our strategic efforts to make up for budget shortfalls and put Binghamton in a competitive position. This is one outstanding example of this. The need is far more pressing in Nursing and a sign of the times. After no discussion, the vote to approve was 39 approved, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

6. Reports

- a. Prof. Barry Jones, Chair of Faculty Senate Executive Committee, reported on the business handled by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee during the fall 2018 semester (as shown on the attached written report). Prof. Jones requested that Senators send him an email if there are any items they feel should be addressed by the FSEC in the spring 2019 semester.
- b. Prof. Sara Reiter, University Faculty Senator, reported on the University Faculty Senate plenary meeting held in Binghamton on October 18-20 (as shown on the attached written report).

7. New Business

- a. Budget discussion – Prof. Karp noted that the current budget situation presents a set of complex issues. The budget crisis was under discussion with awareness that the new contract was being negotiated. Administration sought to plan ahead for what they saw coming which was a constant topic of conversation. It was felt we were presented with a situation that was worse than was anticipated and it is difficult to understand why we didn't seem to have a grip on the extent of the issue in advance. Second, the union did not seem to show awareness of the broader implications of the new contract and how it would be paid for. Third, and the most important issue, has to do with the future. FSEC is concerned that seemingly across-the-board budget freeze or cuts are in some ways still considered in areas that provide avenues for hope for escape from the crisis. An across-the-board approach seems to lack a sense of strategic possibilities of investing where there is likely to be a potential for increasing revenue. Administration is aware of this. Their approach is to start from a level playing field and hear from different divisions/areas. We hope that the administration agrees that it is too crude a mechanism of cuts across the board without looking at areas that need protection.

Provost Nieman noted that the Senate leadership has been very helpful, and he appreciates them helping to clarify and find a better process. He reminded everyone that these are not cuts, this is a hold on hiring. Administration is looking at things that will help generate revenue. It is not a crisis; it is more a shock to the system. Our budget has grown substantially in the last six years. Dealing with this hole with budget reductions is small in comparison with the growth of our budget. We cannot lose sight of the UUP negotiated contract that was long overdue. We are dealing with the major issue as are other campuses, which is to provide appropriate compensation for our staff. This is the positive side. We have been talking to constituent groups for a few years and did not know if New York State would pay for any of this. We have tried to plan for the additional costs that we would assume with enrollment growth and by changing the mix of our student body to enhance revenue. We have been successful in the last six years but in the last two years, we have encountered issues that most campuses have encountered with respect to the difficult environment for international students and a very strong economy which led to a decline in graduate applications. We did fall short on revenue this fall but we won't know until the 40th day of the spring semester how we stand, based on the mix of in-state/out-of-state and part time/full time students. We are short in our graduate headcount, but the mix of part time/full time students and the in-state/out-of-state may be different than we anticipated. We use models to project but we were not conservative enough in our planning. We will be able to overcome this; it is not easy, but we can. We will be looking at all requests for hiring exceptions where we have the opportunity to generate additional revenue. Deans will be making decisions within their schools.

Prof. Fernando Guzman, Mathematics, questioned the timing of faculty and administrative searches that were halted. We are being asked to do more with fewer resources. The 40th day of the fall 2019 semester may be too late to open searches for Fall 2020 hires in certain disciplines. If we open searches early, hoping that our numbers are good, that hurts the reputation of BU if we then cannot hire. What is going to happen a year from now? What different decisions do we have to make? Will we be combining programs or eliminating programs if things continue to be as bad as they are now?

Provost Nieman answered that we have no plans for retrenchment. He does not see us eliminating programs. We have the mix of programs that we need to serve our students. Based on the hiring hold along with projection of what the budget consequences will be next fall if our revenue from enrollment remains flat, we have assigned a budget cut number for each school so the Deans can begin to plan. The difference in graduate enrollment and revenue will be offset to the proposed cut to the schools. This does leave some guesswork but it is something that will allow the Deans to plan. The hiring hold will help them plan and hedge resources against the needs they might have. One of the challenges we have not addressed in the budget is the shifts in enrollment within schools, and we are shifting resources to accommodate that. We want to protect our faculty as much as we can. Cuts to schools were much lower than to service areas in Academic Affairs; this was done to protect the schools and the faculty.

Prof. Guzman wondered whether, if we were being conservative for fall 2020, there would be any room for faculty hires, and if so, could they be opened early enough or

would we have to wait until the 40th day of the semester? Provost Nieman commented that our intent would be to start on the normal cycle but that the Deans would have to make decisions on where hires would be and hedge against the uncertainty they are going to have.

Prof. Andrew Walkling, Theater, commented that one of the problems was that our graduate enrollment was lower than anticipated. He asked for a clarification on how headcount correlates with revenue. If a graduate student is funded, does it have effect on revenue? Provost Nieman noted that the relationship between headcount and revenue and the spread of revenue based on headcount is considerable. We try to get PhD students course complete as quickly as possible. PhD student revenue does count in graduate revenue in the schools. Tuition goes to SUNY and is allocated back to us as part of our revenue.

Prof. Natalia Mijatovic, Art, asked how we will cover our budget with tuition. It seems that New York State did not follow through with their promise. If the state appreciates the importance of education, the people of New York State need to know what is going on and where the blame lies. Provost Nieman responded that we did have to assume responsibility for raises the last time a contract was signed, but that was less of a burden on the University. This is a much bigger contract and a bigger impact. This year we are paying retroactive raises. He does agree with Prof. Mijatovic's point and does not believe the state is shouldering its share of responsibility for public higher education in New York.

Prof. Melissa Zinkin, Philosophy, asked if our mission isn't to take in-state students with moderate income. Provost Nieman noted that yes, that is our mission, and a large portion of our undergraduate students are in-state. The Nursing online program will both enhance our enrollment and boost revenue. Currently there are 169,000 RN's in New York who will have to get their BA in the next decade. We will provide high quality online experience for working nurses and will be serving the population that we were designed to serve. We will continue to play the role in offering opportunities to working and middle class families by providing access to high quality undergraduate education.

Prof. Christopher Hanes, Economics, stated that we do not have enough money from the state. The public needs to know what is happening. Is anyone getting this message out? Do we explain what is happening regarding class size and enrollment cuts? Is there anything faculty can do? Can SUNY administration do more to set off alarms to the public? Provost Nieman responded that there is a lot that faculty and students can do. We have good relationships with our local legislature that understands this completely. This is a high priority for the Chancellor; she has worked through the political process with the Governor. Provost Nieman admits that he does not know if a more aggressive stance will be beneficial.

After no more business, the meeting adjourned at 12:57 pm.

Present: Anne Bailey, Christina Balderamma-Durbin, Robin Best, Cassandra Bransford, Leon Cosler, Jill Dixon, Patrick Doyle, Heather Fiumera, Mark Fowler, Ann Fronczek, Leslie Gates, Neyda Gilman, Christof Grewer, Fernando Guzman, Christopher Hanes, Noah Henry, Olivia Homes, Sharon Holmes, Mattias Iser, Barry Jones, John Suk Young

Kang, Jonathan Karp, Bryan Kirschen, Adam Laats, Leslie Lander, Stephen Levy, Michael Lewis, Carl Lipo, Richard MacKenney, Daniel Magelby, Marcin Mazur, Thomas McDonough, Natalija Mijatovic, Donald Nieman, Nkiru Nzegwu, Sumantra Sarkar, Anton Schick, Andrew Scholtz, Edward Shephard, Thomas Sinclair, Gale Spencer, Roberta Strippoli, Andrew Walkling, Douglas Wehbe, Yan Zhang, Melissa Zinkin

Excused: Seokheun Choi, Robert Holahan, James Jentsch, Anthony Meder, Tomonari Nishikawa, SB Park, Diane Sommerville, Harvey Stenger, Erin Washburn, Alexi Zentner, Harald Zils

Absent: Lina Begdache, Kevin Boettcher, Peter Borgesen, Brian Callahan, Ana Maria Candela, Lubna Chaudhry, Eric Cotts, William Culverhouse, Elizabeth DiGangi, Deborah Elliston, Sarah Gerk, John Havard, Albrecht Inhoff, Sha Jin, Thomas Kulp, Brett Levinson, Harold Lewis, Steven Lynn, Claudia Marques, Tarun Mastana, Jean-Pierre Mileur, Omowunmi Sadik, Timothy Singler, Cibon Uzmanoglu, David Wilson, Lei Yi, Hong Zhang