

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
February 11, 2020

The third Faculty Senate meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year was called to order by Associate Librarian Jill Dixon at 11:50 am.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the December 3, 2019 meeting were approved.

2. Obituary notices

Chair Dixon notified the body that Prof. Emeritus James A. Geschwender, Sociology, passed away. Chair Dixon asked for a moment of silence to remember our colleague.

3. Curriculum

a. Master of Science in Information Systems (MSIS)

Program has been approved by Faculty Senate executive committee and has also been reviewed and approved by the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee. Motion was made and seconded to approve the program. After no discussion, it was unanimously approved with 0 abstentions and 0 opposed.

4. New Business

a. ITS Research Computing Advisory Committee (Joint)

Prof. Barry Jones, chair of Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC), explained there was a need for a research computing committee, especially with the pending investments in computing infrastructure, and to have a mechanism for faculty to provide input on computing needs. In discussions with Provost Nieman and Niyazi Bodur, Chief Information Office, the charge and composition for the committee were established. This committee parallels the ACET committee but will focus on research.

Prof. Fernando Guzman, Mathematics, asked what else is needed to put the committee in place and when the work would start. Prof. Jones responded that if this was approved today, co-chairs and faculty would be chosen by the FSEC and the Provost with hopes of having the committee up and running this semester.

Prof. Anne Clark, Biological Sciences, asked how available would the committee be for faculty to make individual and lab requests. Prof. Jones responded that, as with any committee, faculty can connect with this committee which can become a collection point via the co-chairs.

Prof. Aaron Beedle, Pharmacy, asked if this committee would be linked to the Data Sciences initiative. Prof. Jones said that we do not see this as linked, more of a general committee, but there could be joint discussions.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the formation of the ITS Research Computing Advisory committee. After no discussion, it was unanimously approved with 0 abstentions and 0 opposed.

b. Final Exam Period Policy

Prof. Paul Schleuse, Music, reported that this policy was revised to clarify concerns and the potential of misreading the existing policy. He emphasized that the goal of the policy is for instruction to continue through the last week of classes with the final exam given during exam week. This policy came to the Senate with FSEC approval.

Prof. Andrew Walkling, Theatre, reported that he is in support of this policy and feels it is good to have it clarified. He does however have a concern about a student's responsibility to notify faculty if they have more than two exams in a 24-hour period "before the last week of classes". He prefers there be a specific deadline; perhaps even add it to the University calendar. Having a specific date will help faculty with planning if they have to give exams at two different times. Prof. Schleuse understands this concern and noted that the original policy did not voice this. "Before the last week of classes" was settled on so as to prevent last-minute notification by students (e.g. day before exam). Perhaps instructors can ask if they can establish an earlier deadline.

Prof. Fernando Guzman, co-chair of the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee, noted that the Diversity Committee has reviewed this revised policy and has no comments.

Student John Santare, Student Association Vice President for Academic Affairs, asked to whom would a student report if a faculty member was not following this policy. Prof. Schleuse answered that a student's first recourse would be the faculty member, then the department chair, then the relevant Dean's office. It is important to note that students need to be aware of this policy.

Prof. Walkling noted that he was not ready to propose an actual amendment, but requested that a specific date be given. He noted that we used to get notice of the final exam schedule before classes started so the exam date could be included in the syllabi. A University-announced deadline would be helpful. Prof. Barry Jones, Economics, noted that this would require consultation with the Provost. This proposed policy does satisfy the issues of confusion and misinterpretation, and it is now clear. Prof. Walkling agreed.

Prof. Walkling made a motion to table the proposal which was seconded. Prof. Guzman reported that we should move ahead with this proposal. FSEC could consider a proposal to change the policy later and keep the option open to add a specific date later.

Prof. Subimal Chatterjee, School of Management, noted that not acting on this proposed policy would delay students being made aware of the policy.

After no discussion, vote was taken on Prof. Walkling's motion with 8 in favor, 41 opposed, and 7 abstentions. Motion is not carried.

Prof. Walkling moved to strike "before the last week of classes" and pointed out that we want earlier notice from students if they have a conflict.

Prof. Anne Clark, Biological Sciences, asked if this precludes a faculty member from establishing their own deadline and putting it in their syllabi. Chair Dixon did not think it would preclude anyone from doing that. Prof. Guzman said it does not prevent students from notifying faculty at any time during the semester. Prof. Guzman reported that although he appreciated Prof. Walkling's intention, it is dangerous practice to pass legislation in hopes there will be different language later. Leaving the sentence ending with "...student's responsibility to notify faculty" allows a student to notify faculty at any time.

After no other discussion, vote was taken 5 in favor, 46 opposed, and 5 abstentions. Motion is not carried.

A motion was made to approve original language. After no other discussion, it was approved by 49 in favor, 1 opposed, 5 abstentions.

5. Reports

a. Dean Curtis Kendrick, University Libraries, reported on:

- Science Direct update – SUNY and Elsevier continue to be far apart. We differ in our valuation of the resource. Elsevier is basing their valuation on the claim that they made a mistake in earlier negotiations and gave away more than they intended, and they need to correct for that now. Our calculations, based on their data, suggest SUNY has been overpaying by several million dollars per year. Our license expired end of December 2019 and we signed a three-month extension through March 2019 at a lower rate (they say they can't give us that rate longer term.). We are now looking at options for select titles with less coverage and figuring out what the impact will be. Conversations are continuing with another meeting the week of February 17.
- Library renovations – The third floor of Bartle Library is scheduled for renovation starting July 2021. There is a necessary asbestos abatement and the building's mechanical infrastructure also needs to be repaired/replaced. This is an opportunity to make changes to services, programs, and collections in that space.

Student population has risen and library space requirement has risen – there is not enough study space. We are looking to remedy that. We plan to remove the graduate student carrels to allow for more natural light to permeate into the building. We will create a larger room for graduate students (with lockers) that will accommodate the same number of students.

We will create a digital scholarship area – a growing area of research and scholarship – and we want to support it.

This renovation will have an impact on collections. All volumes will be transferred off site. After completion, 60% of the collections will be brought back to campus, to either the 3rd or 4th floor. A collection management facility is being built in Johnson City with a projected April 2021 completion.

Associate Librarian Jill Dixon is project lead; questions can be referred to her or Dean Kendrick.

Prof. Kent Schull, History, asked how long the project would last. It will last three years. The plan is to have collections available during the entire time of renovation except during transit.

Prof. Paul Schleuse, Music, asked if there were any long term plans to renovate the 4th floor and to increase collection capacity on campus. Dean Kendrick said that the 4th floor was renovated 20 years ago, and plans are to renovate the 2nd and 1st floors next. There are no attached funds for the 1st or 2nd floor from the Construction Fund at this time. As far as increasing collection space on campus, there are no plans right now, although there is discussion about using the basement of the Science Library as a Plan-B solution.

Prof. Leslie Gates, Sociology, asked about services for graduate students in the Library. Will there be a lounge for graduate students? Is this a loss for the graduate students? Dean Kendrick responded that the same number of students will have access to dedicated space. There are 200 student carrels now (on 3rd and 4th floors); during renovation, we will double up on the carrels on the 4th floor and use a reservation system to better manage who can use and when. Once the renovation is completed, we will assign 200 people to a room; in the room there will be 75 work stations and all 200 students will have lockers. Also, there is a graduate student commons on the 1st floor.

Prof. Melissa Zinkin, Philosophy, asked what the digital scholarship space would be used for. Dean Kendrick said there will be computers and software in the room which will be used as place to help faculty and graduate students learn about tools and techniques for digital scholarship. Some faculty members are already working in this area. As needs evolve for support of digital scholarship, we will be prepared. We see this space for consultation with experts, classes, demonstrations, and a very flexible space.

Ms. Dixon noted that there is a Library renovation website with a feedback form. Everyone is welcome to fill out and submit this anonymous form.

- b. Ms. Andrea MacArgel, Director of Instructional Design, Center for Learning and Teaching, reported on Starfish. After feedback was received, we have switched to a new early alert system called Starfish. It is available in the "my.binghamton.edu" portal. One can use alerts to report on students and can report on specific topics/courses. The advisor will add information to the flag so the faculty member will see that the loop has been closed. There is no longer a "thumbs up/thumbs down" system; this new system closes the loop. This is largely an undergraduate tool.

Prof. Anne Clark, Biological Sciences, asked how undergraduate students will be told about this? Ms. MacArgel responded that this was put in B-Line, starting in the spring, and students were told about it in orientation for the fall. Students have already been using this to schedule their advising.

Prof. Randy Scholtz, Classical and Near Eastern Studies, asked if Starfish could be used in connection with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) for students who need special accommodations which could make communications more efficient. Ms. MacArgel responded this is not in Starfish at the request of SSD as there may be a concern about access to information that should not be seen by all parties. Prof. Scholtz asked if Starfish was secure. Ms. MacArgel answered that advisors have full access with instructors only having access to courses. Ms. MacArgel noted that we do not have an advisory committee regarding Starfish so if any faculty members were interested in serving to contact Ms. MacArgel.

- b. Prof. Sara Reiter, University Faculty Senator, reported on topics of interest discussed during the January 16-18, 2020 University Faculty Senate (UFS) plenary meeting in Albany, NY.

Interested faculty can read the whole report on the meeting at <http://www.sunyufs.us/winter-2020-post-plenary-report.html>

A major topic and concern is the ongoing budget process. The UFS will be discussing a budget resolution in support of better funding for SUNY at their next meeting. Faculty are encouraged to lobby the governor and their representatives – without using University time, resources or emails. The following is a link to example letters. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1D2xHb5ZTmp0NbPWvonWpjkohJag_2n2L?usp=sharing

Proposals for Conversations in the Disciplines are due by March 27, 2020. <http://www.suny.edu/provost/cid>

The UFS has adopted a revised set of by-laws and standing rules.

The following are updates on topics of concern:

Elsevier Negotiations – The contract expired in December but has been extended for three months while negotiations continue.

PRODiG – In the first year, the program resulted in 74 hires (the target was 80).

SUNY Online – The Chancellor says the goal is to capture the 40,000 New York students who are obtaining online education from out-of-state providers, as opposed to competing with already-existing programs at SUNY schools. The SUNY Provost explained that the large SUNY online advertising campaign is generating leads for programs on the campuses as well as the SUNY online offerings. There is a newly formed Online Advisory Committee.

General Education – The advisory committee has been formed and plans to start making recommendations this spring. The first issues will be a redefinition of the Information Management competency and renaming “Other World Civilizations” and “Foreign Languages”.

Concerns with declining enrollment continue to bypass the University Centers but have a large impact on other campuses in the system. The SUNY Provost explained initiatives related to strategic enrollment planning.

An Empire State initiative to partner with Modern States and offer credit for introductory courses that students take from MOOCs and other online sources through student scores on AP and CLEP exams raised concerns, which are being looked into.

Task forces have been set up to look into Mental Health and Wellness; Supporting Tolerance and Nurturing Diversity; and Global Learning for All – Educating for a Sustainable Future (co-chaired by Provost Nieman).

A program has been adopted, but not publicized, to give \$5,000 to doctoral students who have been successful in getting a pre-doctoral grant from a federal funding agency.

Provost Nieman reported on the task force on “Global Learning for All – Educating for a Sustainable Future”. The task force has met twice. The charge to the committee is to shine the spotlight on global learning which is important and imperative for campuses in an effort to explore how this can be linked to the United Nations’ goals on global issues. The task force is gathering information on what campuses are doing relative to global education and they are assessing it. One of the priorities is to link global education with diversity and inclusivity. Our goal is to access what is being done in SUNY and establish best practices and encourage campus to develop programs in ways that are appropriate for them. Our goal is not that there be a one-size-fits-all across SUNY but rather that we use resources and examples from the system to strengthen what campuses are able to do. At BU, we are a highly international campus with lots of opportunities for global learning. The task force hopes to wrap up its work in April and have a white paper by June 1.

Chair Dixon announced that the Full Faculty meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10. Members can contact Dixon if there are any topics they wish to discuss.

Hearing no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:56 pm.

Present: Saligrama Agnihotri, Seden Akcinaroglu, Jeffner Allen, Laura Anderson, Nathanael Andrade, Michael Armstrong, Hilary Becker, Aaron Beedle, Lina Begdache, Peter Borgesen, Sharon Bryant, Brian Callahan, Nicole Cameron, Subimal Chatterjee, Paul Chiarot, Seokheun, Choi, Anne Clark, Leon Cosler, Scott Craver, Leon Cui, William Culverhouse, Sidney Dement, Jill Dixon, Patrick Doyle, Anthony Ephirim-Donkor, Carmen Ferradas, Mark Fowler, Ann Fronczek, Leslie Gates, Neyda Gilman, Christof Grewer, Fernando Guzman, Brendan Hennessey, Norah Henry, Robert Holahan, Aleshia Huber, Murali Jagannathan, James Jentsch, Sha Jin, Barry Jones, Blazo Kovacevic, Leslie Lander, Alistair Lees, Carl Lipo, Andrea MacArgel, Donald Nieman, Tomonari Nishikawa, Sara Reiter, John Santare, Anton Schick, Paul Schleuse, Andrew Scholtz, Kent Schull, David Schuster, Roberta Strippoli, Andrew Walkling, Bruce White, Lei Yu, Hong Zhang, Melissa Zinkin

Faculty Senate meeting

February 11, 2020

Page 7

Excused: Allan Arkush, John Baust, Robin Best, Lubna Chaudhry, Jeroen Gerrits, Leslie Heywood, Douglas Holmes, Natesha Smith, Elizabeth Skaggs, Harvey Stenger, Stan Whittingham

Absent: Nancy Appelbaum, Lisa Blitz, Ana Maria Candela, Hwan-Sik Choi, Sung Chung, Eric Cotts, Lois Einhorn, Nicole Fenty, Thomas Glave, Jennifer Gordon, Albrecht Inhoff, John Suk Young Kang, Thomas Kulp, Steven Lynn, Thomas McDonough, Jean Pierre Mileur, Joshua Reno, Thomas Sinclair, Timothy Singler, David Wilson