

MINUTES OF  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
March 10, 2020

Associate Librarian Jill Dixon, University Libraries, called the Full Faculty meeting to order at 11:48 am in UU Mandela Room. She welcomed Gwen Kay, president of UFS to our meeting.

President Harvey G. Stenger presentation is posted on line.

<https://www.binghamton.edu/faculty-senate/docs/stenger-presentation-full-faculty.pdf>

The Full Faculty meeting was adjourned, and the fourth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year was called to order by Assoc. Librarian Jill Dixon.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting were approved.

2. Reports

Prof. Jonathan Krasno, Political Science and chair of the Budget Review Committee provided the Budget Review Committee annual report and was available to answer questions. A motion was made and seconded to approve. After no discussion, the report was unanimously approved.

3. Curriculum Items

Prof. Sara Reiter, School of Management, discussed the Theatre/Business Administration BA/MBA and Theatre/Public Administration BA/MPA discontinuances.

Motion was made and seconded to approve the Theatre discontinuances. Prof. Andrew Walkling, Theatre, clarified that these programs are not being permanently eliminated from the Theatre Department's offerings. They are being discontinued in their existing format so that the Theatre major can complete its reapproval process in Albany; once that has happened, they can be reinstated through a campus approval process rather than having to go through Albany. After no discussion, the Theatre discontinuances were unanimously approved.

4. New Business

- a. University Faculty Senate resolution "SUNY/CUNY Budget" – Prof. Sara Reiter, University Faculty Senator, described this resolution which calls on Governor Cuomo to increase the share of the state budget for SUNY to fully fund the negotiated increases, cost of living increase, and the TAP and Excelsior tuition programs. This calls for fully funded capital plans and for SUNY to establish an endowment. The resolution also encourages people to write their legislators as a personal appeal. After no more discussion, resolution was unanimously approved with 1 abstention.
- b. Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science name change – Prof. Jones, chair of FSEC, noted that the FSEC has reviewed and approved this proposal. Motivation for this change is that the school will become larger and some departments are now larger than other colleges on campus. Dean Srihari has received strong endorsements from Watson School department chairs. Dean Srihari was available for questions or comments. A motion was made and seconded to approve this name change. After no discussion, motion was unanimously approved.

- c. Teaching Classes Without In-Person Classroom Settings – Jill read motion that was proposed and called for a motion to suspend the 72-hour rule for agenda items as shown in our bylaws. Motion was made and seconded. After no discussion, motion was unanimously approved with 1 abstention.

Pres Stenger thanked the Senate for suspending the agenda rule and reported that the Corona virus risks are severe and significant, and we are watching situation over the state very carefully. He reported that discussions have begun on ways to teach remotely if we felt health risks were near and present. We teach over 1,000 courses every semester and we may need all courses online before the end of the semester. We need to bring on cohorts of faculty to teach online in a logical way and have invited faculty volunteers to participate in the first cohort to test the systems. We currently have 30 volunteers. At this time, President Stenger said that when we have one confirmed case in Broome County, faculty will be encouraged to teach online. Our next marker is if we have a case of a student or employee, all classes would be taught remotely.

At this time, panel came forward for questions.

- d. Coronavirus Panel Discussion  
Panelists were President Harvey Stenger; Provost Donald Nieman; Vice President for Student Affairs Brian Rose; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Johann Fiore Conte; Vice Provost, Center for Learning and Teaching James Pitarresi; and Medical Director, Decker Center of Health Services Dr. Richard Moose.

Since the CDC guidelines suggest avoiding public spaces, Prof. Barry Jones, FSEC chair, noted that he is very happy with this resolution.

Prof. Thomas Sinclair, Public Administration, reported that he was grateful for information and feedback from our administration. He asked what the university is thinking about long term in opening things back up when everything is all clear. President Stenger responded that he has a statement drafted once we have no confirmed cases on campus within 14 days.

Prof. Paul Schleuse, Music, asked if Broome County has sufficient testing. Dr. Moose responded that there is adequate testing in New York State and all testing must be approved by the Department of Health.

Prof. Seden Akcinaroglu, Political Science, asked if a student reports they are sick, what do they and we do? What does a student do if some classes are moved online, some not; how do we handle this, how will this unfold? Dr. Moose responded that the student must call the Student Health Center, self-isolate, and wear a mask. Students can miss class while waiting to be seen or tested. President Stenger noted that he has heard from many students who wish to go online right away. We are not at high risk right now, but are preparing. Students need to understand this is a difficult decision and hard to do quickly. Provost Nieman noted that if a student is ill, we will accommodate them.

Prof. Fernando Guzman, Mathematics, asked if and when we shut down campus, will students be kept in the residence halls or sent home? Do we have enough bandwidth if

we move all classes online? It was noted that our campus would not be closing; students may go home or stay on campus. We anticipate we would continue to operate at the essential service level on campus. Prof. Pitarresi reported that he has been assured that we have adequate band width and the tools that we would need have already been distributed. We may need to adjust as we move forward, but it is felt we are in good shape.

Prof. Kent Schull, History, thanked President Stenger for the great communication. He asked if there would be access to libraries, what types of materials will be available, and how will this affect our day-to-day operations? President Stenger responded that, right now, we are not in a situation where the Governor is saying not to go to work; all employees are expected to work if/when we would be in step 1 or step 2 as shown in the proposed resolution. We have not resolved the issue of Library access yet, but we will guarantee some type of access to all library materials and are working with Dean Kendrick.

Student John Santare, Student Association representative, asked how we will be handling lab courses. Prof. James Pitarresi responded that we are analyzing and interpreting data and may be able to do some labs virtually, but will have to look at on a case-by-case basis. He will be meeting with lab instructors to discuss good ideas on how to handle. As far as faculty moving toward online, Provost Nieman noted that we recognize there are many different kinds of instruction and a variety of courses, and we are working with different areas to get best creative solutions.

Prof. Scott Craver, Electrical and Computer Engineering, noted that if there will be restricted access to campus, some will need access to equipment on campus to conduct their online courses. He asked if spaces can be accessible for faculty so it will make it as easy as possible to do online courses. President Stenger said that we are looking at access to both the Bartle and CIW Libraries.

Prof. Brian Callahan, Chemistry, asked how doing assessments, exams, and final exams remotely would work. Prof. Pitarresi responded that there are assessment tools in “my courses” for most courses. “ProctorMe” and “proctorU” are alternative options we may have to consider. Prof. Callahan asked how we would maintain the rigor of the course for the take-home exams. Prof. Pitarresi responded that there may be tools we’d have to acquire for testing. He noted that the Center for Learning and Teaching will be putting training materials together to help faculty and departments with this transition.

Prof. Schull noted that the faculty who have had CLT training can help others in their departments.

Prof. Aaron Beedle, Pharmacy, asked about students who do not have sufficient speed or access. Prof. Pitarresi noted we will look at students on a case-by-case basis. ITS Help Desk, CLT, and UCT are three entities who will be able to assist.

Prof. Andrew Walkling, Theatre, asked if there would be evening and weekend hours in CLT. Prof. Pitarresi responded that it is a good idea to have more training in off hours. We will need to explore how to best expand to help those faculty in need.

Student John Santare reported that there would be a student meeting in the Lecture Hall today at 7:00 pm to hear what students have to say.

Peter Partell, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs & Administration, Watson, asked about access to research labs. President Stenger noted that this is not a shut down; we are just going to online classes; the rest of the campus is open. We can only shut down if Governor Cuomo prohibits access to New York State spaces.

Student Elizabeth Skaggs, GSO representative, asked what happens if a person's conference is canceled. President Stenger noted that a message will be coming out from the Business Office.

President Stenger reported that we have directed study abroad students to return to campus as soon as possible.

Chair Dixon asked for any questions related to the motion. Motion was approved unanimously with one abstention.

Prof. Nadia Rubaii, CCPA Public Administration, asked about international travel that was awarded for the summer and how should we proceed? President Stenger noted that there is no travel to level 2 and 3 countries. He discouraged anyone making travel plans to any country that has cases. We are not restricting students who wish to travel for their spring break; that is their personal decision.

Prof. Blazo Kovacevic, Art, asked why we are waiting for confirmed cases to move online. He noted that some students are already out with the flu. President Stenger said we do not see a present danger at this time (no confirmed cases in Broome County) and our reaction right now is in the best interest of student education. Postponing until we see present danger makes sense to meet the educational needs of our students.

Ms. Courtney Ignarri, Harpur Dean's Office, asked how we should proceed with internal campus events and graduate recruiting events. President Stenger said we are not cancelling any on-campus events right now and we are not scheduling any new ones. Performance and athletic events are not being cancelled, but things can change.

Manas Chatterjee, SOM, reported on a March 31 online panel discussion "Coronavirus: Disaster Management of Health and Socioeconomic Concerns". The tentative list of the panelists include Rebecca Kaufman, Director of the Broome County Health Department; Dr. Christopher Ryan, Broome County Health Department; Dr. Richard Moose, Director, Decker Center of Health Services; Manas Chatterji, School of Management. The discussion is open to Binghamton University and the local community.

After no more business, the meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm.

Present: Seden Akcinaroglu, Jeffner Allen, Laura Anderson, Nathanael Andrade, Michael Armstrong, Hilary Becker, Aaron Beedle, Lina Begdache, Peter Borgesen, Brian Callahan, Nicole Cameron, Subimal Chatterjee, Paul Chairot, Seokheun Choi, Anne Clark, Leon Cosler, Scott Craver, William Culverhouse, Sidney Dement, Jill Dixon,

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Patrick Doyle, Anthony Ephirim-Donkor, Carmen Ferradas, Mark Fowler, Ann Fronczek, Neyda Gilman, Jennifer Gordon, Christof Grewer, Fernando Guzman, Brendan Hennessey, Aleshia Huber, Norah Henry, Leslie Heywood, Robert Holahan, Aleshia Huber, Barry Jones, Blazo Kovacevic, Andrea MacArgel, Donald Nieman, Sara Reiter, John Santare, Anton Schick, Paul Schleuse, Kent Schull, Elizabeth Skaggs, Thomas Sinclair, Harvey Stenger, Roberta Strippoli, Andrew Walkling, Bruce White Stan Whittingham, Hong Zhang, Melissa Zinkin

Excused: Sharon Bryant, Lubna Chaudhry, Sha Jin, Alistair Lees, Leslie Lander, Tomonari Nishikawa, Andrew Scholtz, David Schuster, Lei Yu

Absent: Saligrama Agnihotri, Nancy Appelbaum, Allan Arkush, John Baust, Robin Best, Lisa Blitz, Ana Maria Candela, Sung Chung, Eric Cotts, Leon Ciu, Lois Einhorn, Nicole Fenty, Leslie Gates, Jeroen Gerrits, Thomas Glave, Albrecht Inhoff, Murali Jagannathan, James Jentsch, John Suk Young Kang, Thomas Kulp, Carl Lipo, Steven Lynn, Thomas McDonough, Jean Pierre Mileur, Joshua Reno, Timothy Singler, Natesha Smith, David Wilson