

MINUTES OF  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
April 14, 2020

Associate Librarian Jill Dixon, University Libraries, called the Full Faculty meeting being held via Zoom to order at 11:48 am. She welcomed President Stenger to the meeting.

President Harvey G. Stenger discussed his presentation which can be found here:

<https://www.binghamton.edu/faculty-senate/documents-and-forms.html>

Prof. Fernando Guzman, Mathematics, asked about the financial aspect of the situation and was reminded of when part of our salary was taken and paid later. He asked if President Stenger anticipates that procedure this year to meet the budget. President Stenger responded that a person's five days of pay was held back when they were first employed (and it would get paid back when one retires). He said we will wait to hear anything about this but he has not heard anything about deferred pay.

Prof. Guzman also asked if the University has any information on the disappearance of Prof. Dominic Davy beyond what has been reported on the local news. Prof. Davy has been missing since April 10. President Stenger said we do not have any more information. University Police and the Endicott police are working together. We are very concerned; we hope he is safe. We will report when we have more information.

Prof. Subimal Chatterjee, School of Management, asked about automatic tenure extensions. Do extensions apply to renewal cases also? Prov. Nieman responded that this is for all faculty coming up for review in 2020/2021.

Prof. Kent Schull, History, asked about the funds being refunded to students. Is this available to graduate students also? President Stenger said yes; any students who have been impacted by this virus are eligible for this.

Prof. Celia Klin, Harpur Dean's office, noted that on the pass/fail policy, any credits taken pass/fail in the spring 2020 semester do count towards the 24 credit limit on pass/fail allowed during a student's years at Binghamton University. Further, students may take 12 credits pass/fail during the spring 2020 semester even if this puts them over the 24 credit limit.

Prof. Nadia Rubaii, Public Administration, asked if international students would be eligible to receive these funds? President Stenger responded that we do not have guidance on this; no one has specifically told us but we assume they would be allowed.

Prof. Tom McDonough, Art, asked whether there were any contingency plans for the fall semester. He also asked what the projected impact is on international graduate student enrollment for the coming year. President Stenger responded that we have to plan for every possible scenario. James Pitarresi is encouraging faculty who are not comfortable with teaching online to contact him to be ready for online teaching for the fall, but we are predicting we will be in person by the fall. Neither in-person or on-line are certain. In the enrollment cycle, undergraduate student numbers are about where we normally are. International student numbers are down a little bit but not barren. If we can come back and have in person classes, will international students be able to come back (i.e. travel restrictions)? We have a contingency plan in place to offer a full semester of courses on line if they cannot bring themselves here but there will be a limited choice of classes available. We are doing virtual tours with interactive sessions; 20 faculty members have given small classes to admitted

students. We do worry about returning students; some may take time off, so we need constant reach out. We are being proactive to show we care and that we are efficient. Faculty teaching online is part of that retention.

Prof. Kim Jaussi, School of Management, noted that she is honored and proud to be part of this team. Regarding the extension of tenure clocks, she would like to see this be automatic instead of opting out so faculty don't have to admit they are having "problems." Some schools are using "opt in" instead of "opt out" -- this would be forwarding thinking on our part. President Stenger agreed that this will be done this way; no one is coming up for tenure next year unless they want to.

Prof. Jeffner Allen, Africana Studies, asked about incompletes left over from last semester. If a student cannot complete this by the deadline, what happens? Provost Nieman admits that we have not thought about it and will check with Donald Loewen on this. Prof. Klin responded that it was just decided that if a student had an incomplete from the fall, they will get one extra semester to complete the work.

Prof. Les Lander, Computer Science, asked if this incomplete ruling was just for Harpur. What about graduate students? Prof. Klin noted that the ruling was made by the Academic Affairs Council which has representatives from all schools. This decision did not address graduate students. Provost Nieman responded that he will reach out to the Graduate School on this.

Prof. Lander also asked, when we do go back to face-to-face teaching, what about faculty who may not be recommended to go back to the classroom? President Stenger noted that the health of our faculty is important. He would hope that the Governor would not send people from highly infected areas to those areas that are not heavily infected. We do need testing in place if we have those capabilities. We may be looking at testing students on weekly basis. We would find accommodations for faculty who are concerned; perhaps have them continue to do teaching via Zoom. Provost Nieman responded that he is putting together a public health advisory group to look at best practices for return to "normal." We do want to do this in steps/stages and anything we do will be done in good practice for good health.

Prof. Schull asked about potential incoming graduate students. If they cannot come here physically, would it be possible for them to TA virtually? Can we offer programs for them to join virtually? President Stenger said that we need to check with ISSS. If a TA is not doing the work, they may not be able to get paid. Provost Nieman noted that he has put together groups on what we need to do to come back to face-to-face instruction. Graduate education is one of those groups and this will be on this group's radar.

Prof. Liz Rosenberg, English, asked how we will determine the safety for both students and faculty? If we do not have safeguards from New York State, will we be making our own? President Stenger said this is the biggest question and we do not have an answer. This is a unique environment which includes migration of students from throughout the state and the nation. The decision has not been made yet but need to decide on the best way to come back. Karen Sauer and Eric Hoffman have filed for a grant from NIH for test kits.

Provost Nieman announced that with the departure of Dean Aondover Tarhule, Provost Nieman will take over as Interim Graduate Dean. He will spend a couple days a week during the

summer in the Graduate School with Gretchen Mahler and Ben Balkaya. This will allow him to get an understanding of the Graduate School staff and its processes.

After no more questions, the Full Faculty meeting was adjourned, and the fifth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2019-2020 academic year was called to order by Chair Jill Dixon.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting were approved.

2. Obituary Notices

Chair Dixon notified the body that Prof. Emeritus Richard Andrus, Environmental Studies, Prof. Samuel Morell, Judaic Studies, and Prof. David Hanson, Mathematics, passed away. Chair Dixon asked for a moment of silence to remember our colleagues.

3. Approval of degree candidates

4,034 graduates have filed an application for degree (1,061 graduate students; 3,973 undergraduate students). After no discussion, the list of graduate candidates was unanimously approved.

4. Resolution “Commendation for Essential Personnel on Binghamton University’s campus”

Prof. Thomas Sinclair, Public Administration, contacted the Vice Presidents of Operations, Student Affairs, and Research for the numbers of personnel who are working on campus during the Covid-19 pandemic. This resolution is to thank them for doing this work and express our appreciation. Motion was made and seconded to approve.

Prof. Barry Jones, chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, noted that the FSEC did pass this original resolution and offered an amendment (attached). There are additional personnel from Academic Affairs who are working and we need to acknowledge their efforts. Prof. Sinclair indicated his full support. Motion made and seconded to approve the amendment which was unanimously approved.

After no more discussion, the revised resolution was unanimously approved.

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

Present: Saligrama Agnihotri, Jeffner Allen, Laura Anderson, Nathanael Andrade, Allan Arkush, Michael Armstrong, Hilary Becker, Aaron Beedle, Lina Begdache, Peter Borgesen, Sharon Bryant, Nicole Cameron, Subimal Chatterjee, Lubna Chaudhry, Seokheun Choi, Sung Chung, Anne Clark, Leon Cosler, Scott Craver, Leon Cui, William Culverhouse, Sidney Dement, Jill Dixon, Anthony Ephirim-Donkor, Carmen Ferradas, Mark Fowler, Ann Fronczek, Leslie Gates, Neyda Gilman, Jennifer Gordon, Christof Grewer, Fernando Guzman, Brendan Hennessey, Norah Henry, Aleshia Huber, Norah Henry, Robert Holahan, Aleshia Huber, Murali Jagannathan, James Jentsch, Sha Jin, Barry Jones, John Suk Young Kang, Blazo Kovacevic, Leslie Lander, Alistair Lees, Carl Lipo, Andrea MacArgel, Thomas McDonough, Donald Nieman, Tomonari Nishikawa, Sara Reiter, Anton Schick, Paul Schleuse, Andrew

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Scholtz, Kent Schull, David Schuster, Thomas Sinclair, Natesha Smith, Harvey Stenger, Roberta Strippoli, Andrew Walkling, Bruce White Stan Whittingham, Lei Yu, Hong Zhang, Melissa Zinkin

Absent: Seden Akcinaroglu, Nancy Appelbaum, John Baust, Robin Best, Lisa Blitz, Brian Callahan, Ana Maria Candela, Paul Chiarot, Hwan-Sik Choi, Eric Cotts, Patrick Doyle, Lois Einhorn, Nicole Fenty, Thomas Glave, Leslie Heywood, Albrecht Inhoff, Thomas Kulp, Maria Lugones, Steven Lynn, Jean Pierre Mileur, Joshua Reno, John Santare, Timothy Singler, Elizabeth Skaggs, David Wilson