

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
November 28, 2017

Prof. Jonathan Karp called the Full Faculty meeting to order at 11:46 am in UU Old Union Hall. He welcomed President Harvey G. Stenger and turned the meeting over to him.

President Stenger began his report to the Full Faculty meeting attendees. See attached PowerPoint presentation for details. Presentation can also be found at <https://www.binghamton.edu/faculty-senate/docs/2017-11-28-full-faculty.pdf>.

After no questions, the Full Faculty meeting was adjourned.

The first Faculty Senate meeting of the 2017-2018 academic year was called to order by Prof. Jonathan Karp, Judaic Studies, at 12:13 pm.

1. Minutes

After no discussion, the minutes of the May 2, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Obituary notices

Prof. Karp notified the body that Prof. Sandro Sticca, Romance Languages and Literatures; Mr. Keith Roe, University Libraries; Prof. Sean Grady, Chemistry; Prof. Khalil Semaan, Classical and Near Eastern Studies; and Prof. Thomas Head, Mathematics, passed away. Prof. Karp asked for a moment of silence to remember these colleagues.

3. Approval of degree candidates

671 graduates have filed an application for degree (205 graduate students; 466 undergraduate students). Motion was made and seconded to approve. List was approved by a unanimous hand vote.

4. Summary of Annual Reports 2016-2017 Faculty Senate standing committees

Prof. Karp read the charge of each committee and summarized the highlights from the annual reports as noted.

- Budget Review Committee -- Chaired last year by Prof. Wayne Jones and is now chaired by Prof. Howard Brown.
- Bylaws Review Committee – Chaired last year by Prof. Sandra Michael and is now chaired by Prof. Fernando Guzman. Last year, one change made to the Faculty Bylaws was the addition of clinical faculty as voting faculty.
- Convocations Committee -- Chaired by Mr. Benjamin Andrus. The committee supported 16 events last year.
- Diversity Committee – Chaired by Prof. Lisa Tessman.
- EOP – Co-chaired by Prof. Nancy Abashian and Dr. Calvin Gantt. The committee revived its work with a two-year hiatus. One challenge of the EOP Committee is to meet rising enrollments with a stagnating budget. Students require more mentoring and we hope to expand this.
- EPPC – Chaired by Prof. Sara Reiter.
- IAC – Chaired by Prof. Michael Lewis.

- Libraries – Chaired by Prof. Sol Polachek. The Library Committee faced two major issues: review the student utilization of the library and find ways to expand awareness, and how to increase study space.
- Professional Standards – Chaired by Prof. Gale Spencer. This committee had no business again this year.
- UUC – Chaired by Prof. Paul Schleuse.
- ACET – Chaired by Prof. Don Loewen. Last year ACET focused on new classrooms and technology.
- CUE – Chaired by Prof. Carl Lipo. Last year they began the transformation of Nuthatch Hollow into a Living Building (one of 15 in the world), the closing of the winter connector road, and a new parking lot.
- Calendar Committee – Chaired by Provost Donald Nieman. The committee worked on the university calendar to be sure it met all criteria.
- Committee on Committees – Chaired by Prof. Candace Mulcahy. The challenge for this committee is to find faculty to fill committee vacancies. Prof. Karp encouraged colleagues to volunteer to serve on committees.
- Evaluation Coordinating Committee – Chaired last year by Prof. Jon Karp, now chaired by Prof. Anthony Meder. The committee did four evaluations last year, discussed methodical issues, and insured that faculty respected that the surveys are confidential and legitimate.
- Intercollegiate Athletics Committee – Chaired by Mr. Terry Kane.

5. New business

a) Response to organizational meeting items

During this meeting held on September 5, Senators identified the most pressing issues at this very productive meeting. Prof. Karp assured Senators that the FSEC takes very seriously the suggestions and concerns raised in these informational meetings. Prof. Karp reviewed a few of the items but pointed out that this was not an exhaustive list.

- Concern about immigration, DACA, effect of new Administration policies on our faculty, environment for graduate students and international students and what kind of actions we can take.
- Freedom of speech on campus and elsewhere in society and concerns about kinds of crises that have arisen with provocative and defamatory speakers coming to campus and how our campus can be prepared and how to respond. We will review the statement later in the agenda which is an attempt to lay out principles of our concerns. Prof. Karp noted that we are hoping to have an additional half-day symposium open to the entire university to address free speech, campus protests, etc. and how best to address these concerns out front.
- Growth of university (we have added 3,000 students in addition to more faculty and staff since 2011) and the capacity of our infrastructure (transportation, classrooms, technology, counseling) to meet this growth. Many of our committees are trying to deal with this growth issue and whether our structures are adequate to meet this growth. One example is student counseling where there has been a dramatic expansion in the percentage of students seeking counseling services. The Counseling Center is aware of this strain and has implemented changes to address this strain. Emergency response and preventative care have been expanded.

- Academic calendar – Prof. Karp encouraged Senators to look at the Calendar Committee’s annual report where the principles and criteria for the calendar are laid out. We do have faculty representation on this committee and the committee is aware of our concerns (i.e. daycare, international students, winter and summer breaks, funding issues).
- b) Binghamton University Faculty Senate statement “Our Mutual Principles of Free Expressions and Inclusiveness”

Prof. Karp read the statement, then asked for discussions.

“Our Mutual Principles of Free Expression and Inclusiveness”

The Faculty Senate of Binghamton University is concerned at a number of recent disturbing trends in American society. As members of that society we are appalled by the promotion of demonizing rhetoric and restrictive policies designed to marginalize and denounce particular groups of people. As educators, we are alarmed at the parallels between racist policies in this nation's past and the current rise of anti-immigrant, anti-Islamic, and anti-Semitic ideologies, as well as a resurgent culture of violence and intimidation. And as academics, we are chilled at the promulgation of a “post-factual” stance aimed at discrediting and undermining the pursuit of rational inquiry and the value of expertise.

In the face of such moral and intellectual threats, we, the Faculty Senate at Binghamton University, affirm our commitment to the American ideal of inclusiveness and to the fundamental values of free expression and the critical evaluation of truth claims. We therefore oppose prejudicial bans on travel and immigration. We denounce the vilification of the press, the suppression of scientific research, and the erosion of American institutions dedicated to education, culture, the arts and the environment. As scholars and educators we commit ourselves to standing against these destructive trends and upholding our core traditions rooted in free intellectual exchange and the promotion of democracy and human rights.

Prof. Fernando Guzman, Mathematics, and member of the Diversity Committee, noted that the Diversity Committee strongly supports this motion.

Prof. Khanna, Economics, suggests striking “American” and change “ideal” to “ideals”. Prof. Sharon Holmes, CCPA Student Affairs Administration, suggests that we not add “s” to ideal.

Prof. Olivia Homes, English, suggests we add “white supremacy”.

Prof. Nkiru Nzegwu, Africana Studies, notes that the issue of racism still exists today and is a critical part of American psyche and it behooves us not to ignore that particular historical issue.

Prof. Pam Smart, Art History, asks if we remove “past” in “this nation’s past”, if that would be agreeable.

Prof. Claudia Marques, Biology, notes that anti-Islamic and anti-Semitic should not be exclusive, and we should add more. Prof. Holmes asks that it be more exclusionary.

Prof. John Starks, Classical and Near Eastern Studies, remarks that this is a general societal issue that we are addressing, not to add “campuses” as it is too early in this process.

Prof. Patricia Lorenzo, Psychology, noted that this was a strong statement. Is there more that we can add that makes it stronger, for example, what we are doing about it, or some sort of action that we commit ourselves to?

Prof. Richard Naslund, Geology, remarked that we need to keep our American ideals; he is concerned about the current American administration’s trampling of American ideals.

Prof. Sharon Holmes says “ideals” are very different for everyone. American is sometimes referred to as “white ideals”, so she wishes to strike “American”.

If we add “directed at our students and members of our academic community” to be more inclusive to our academic community, it would show that it is impacting us directly. Prof. Karp noted that this statement is a minimum of what we stand for, and feels that a prescription of what we will do would be better addressed later.

Prof. Mijatovic, Art, noted that the “American ideal” made her feel more welcome and would for all international students and faculty.

Motion was made to adopt the following amendments:

As educators, we are alarmed at the parallels between this nation’s racist policies ~~in this nation’s past~~, past and present, and the current rise of anti-immigrant, anti-Islamic, and anti-Semitic ideologies, as well as a resurgent culture of violence and intimidation.

In the face of such moral and intellectual threats, we, the Faculty Senate at Binghamton University, affirm our commitment to the ~~American~~ ideal of inclusiveness and to the fundamental values of free expression and the critical evaluation of truth claims.

After no discussion, the amendment was approved with 4 against and 1 abstention.

Motion was made to accept new statement as shown:

The Faculty Senate of Binghamton University is concerned at a number of recent disturbing trends in American society. As members of that society, we are appalled by the promotion of demonizing rhetoric and restrictive policies designed to marginalize and denounce particular groups of people. As educators, we are alarmed at the parallels between this nation’s racist policies, past and present, and the current rise of anti-immigrant, anti-Islamic, anti-Semitic, and other exclusionary ideologies, as well as a resurgent culture of violence and intimidation. And as academics, we are chilled at the

promulgation of a “post-factual” stance aimed at discrediting and undermining the pursuit of rational inquiry and the value of expertise.

In the face of such moral and intellectual threats, we, the Faculty Senate at Binghamton University, affirm our commitment to the ideal of inclusiveness and to the fundamental values of free expression and the critical evaluation of truth claims. We therefore oppose prejudicial bans on travel and immigration. We denounce the vilification of the press, the suppression of scientific research, and the erosion of American institutions dedicated to education, culture, the arts, and the environment. As scholars and educators, we commit ourselves to standing against these destructive trends and upholding our core traditions rooted in free intellectual exchange and the promotion of democracy and human rights.

After no more discussion, the statement was approved with 5 abstentions.

6. Reports

- a) Prof. John Starks, Chair of Faculty Senate Executive Committee – tabled to next meeting.

After no more business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Present: Nancy Abashian, Elizabeth Anderson, Anne Bailey, Christina Balderamma-Durbin, Anne Brady, Cassandra Bransford, Zu Yan Chen, Leon Cosler, Daniel Thomas Davis, Patricia DiLorenzo, Jill Dixon, Mark Fowler, Leslie Gates, Sarah Gerk, Joseph Graney, John Havard, Brendan Hennessey, Noah Henry, Stephanie Hess, Sharon Holmes, Olivia Homes Moroni, Mattias Iser, Andy Jean-Baptiste, Barry Jones, Jonathan Karp, Changhong Ke, Neha Khanna, Adam Laats, Kristina Lambright, Leslie Lander, Alistair Lees, Harold Lewis, Carl Lipo, Richard MacKenney, Claudia Marques, Marcin Mazur, Thomas Mconough, Anthony Meder, Natalija Mijatovic, Richard Naslund, Donald Nieman, Vladimir Nikulin, Nkiru Nzegwu, Carolyn Pierce, Catherine Ryan, Andrew Scholtz, Pamela Smart, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Dana Stewart, Adrian VasIU, Qi Wang, Alexi Zentner, Yan Zhang, Harald Zils

Excused: Kenneth Chiu, Raviraj Deshmukh, Benjamin Fordham, Arianna Gerstein, Katja Kleinberg,

Absent: Laura Anderson, Serdar Atav, Elizabeth Casteen, George Catalano, Manas Chatterji, Eric Cotts, Weiyong Dai, Marvin Diaz, Nikolay Dimitrov, Patrick Doyle, Deborah Elliston, Heather Fiumera, James Jentesch, Hyeyoung Kang, Richard Lee, Brett Levinson, Stephen Levy, J. Koji Lum, Daniel Magelby, Carol Miles, Nagendra Nagarur, SB Park, Joshua Reno, Sumantra Sarkar, Hong Zhang, Melissa Zinkin