

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
February 20, 2018

The second Faculty Senate meeting of the 2017-2018 academic year was called to order by Prof. Jonathan Karp, Judaic Studies, at 11:48 am.

1. Announcements

Prof. Karp noted that nominations are open for FSEC (FSEC) members for the term starting September 1. He asked Senators to spread the word to colleagues. Prof. Starks emphasized the importance of serving, particularly if one is now a Senator. The Executive Committee could be the next step.

Prof. Karp noted that the Committee on Committees will be sending out its committee interest survey next week where faculty can indicate their interest in serving on committees. He encouraged Senators to lead the way in willingness to serve and to spread the word to departments.

2. Minutes

Prof. Karp indicated a few grammatical errors in the November 28, 2017 minutes which would be corrected. After no discussion, the minutes of the November 28, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted with 1 abstention.

3. Obituary notices

Prof. Karp notified the body that Distinguished Prof. Emeritus William Spanos, English, passed away. Prof. Karp asked for a moment of silence to remember this colleague.

4. New Business

a) Master of Science in Human Rights

FSEC has reviewed the proposal and it has been forward to the Diversity Committee for comment. At this time, discussion was opened. Prof. Chaudhry was present to respond to any questions. Prof. Lisa Tessman, chair of the Diversity Committee, noted that the proposal was exemplary. Prof. Chaudhry noted that this program is a culmination of human services and social justice and is different from other human rights programs around the state. Our program will develop people who can work on human rights from the bottom up in the community.

Prof. Les Lander, Computer Science, noted in the course numbering that 300 level courses were cross-listed with 500 level courses. He recalls a memo from Michelle Ponczek and Sarah Lam that this is not to be done. Prof. Chaudhry noted that their courses will be 400 courses and will be changed in the document before it moves to the State Education Department.

A motion was made to approve the proposal. After no discussion, this proposal was approved by a vote of 52 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention.

b) Policy on Responsible Conduct of Research

Changes to the existing policy have been suggested in order to supplement more detail on the process to align with Federal regulations and to increase confidentiality. One

additional faculty member has been added to the committee in the investigation stage. Section 3 Definitions and section 4 Rights and Responsibilities have been changed. Nancy Lewis, Assistant Vice President for Research Compliance, was available for any questions.

Prof. Andrew Scholtz, Classical and Near Eastern Studies, offered an amendment to change Section 3 Definitions, Fabrication. It was suggested to drop "or without due attention to accuracy". A motion was made and seconded to accept this amendment. Amendment was approved by a vote of 50 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

Prof. Lisa Tessman, Philosophy, voiced a concern of the Diversity Committee on the failure of protection of subjects. Ms. Lewis noted that oversight of this is done by Research Compliance.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the policy. After no discussion, the policy was approved by a vote of 54 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

5. Reports

a) Prof. John Starks, Chair of Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Prof. Starks reported on the work of the FSEC for the summer and fall of 2017. During the summer, the TAE Evaluation Committee continued their work. Extensive work was done on the Road Map through the Campus Governance Leaders, and members were designated for the Joint Task Force on Interdisciplinary and Transdisciplinary Work.

In the fall, the FSEC met 12 times. The chair of the EPPC was added as an ex-officio member of FSEC.

The ECC evaluated Dean Laura Bronstein and Chief Diversity Officer Valerie Hampton in the fall semester.

The FSEC designated committee members on the Welcome Center divisional initiative committee along with search committees for the Vice President for Advancement and the Chief Information Officer.

The FSEC meets with administrators during the academic year. They have met with Dean Hari Srihari regarding international recruiting; Donald Loewen, Anna Addonisio, and Krista Medionte Phillips about undergraduate enrollment, international effects, and changes in Admissions; Dean Laura Bronstein about the merger of CCPA and the Graduate School of Education; Dean Upinder Dhillon about SOM recruiting, changes, and budget; Prof. Nadia Rubaii and Prof. Max Pensky about the graduate certificate in Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention; President Harvey Stenger about budget and Road Map renewal prior to the Full Faculty meeting; Vice President Brian Rose, April Thompson, Johann Fiore Conte, and Mark Rice about the University Counseling Center; and Vice President James Broschart about advancement.

The FSEC met with Gwen Kay, President of the SUNY Faculty Senate. One issue discussed was the charter school resolution.

b) Prof. Pamela Smart, University Faculty Senator

Prof. Pamela Smart reported on the two SUNY Faculty Senate plenary meetings held at SUNY Delhi in the fall and SUNY Poly in January 2018 that were attended by Binghamton's University Faculty Senators Barry Jones and Pamela Smart.

The SUNY interim Provost has created a committee to write a whitepaper on the status of general education within the system. The committee will be looking at what is currently being done across the system, the standards of the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, and at emergent needs. The University Faculty Senate has four representatives on the committee. Once the whitepaper is finished, another group will consider logistical and implementation issues. The intent from SUNY is that this be a faculty-driven process.

The resolution regarding review of the definition of liberal arts requests a re-examination and update of the NYS Education Department criteria for defining liberal arts courses to be conducted by a task group from NYSED, SUNY System, University Faculty Senate, and Faculty Council of Community Colleges. This is directed toward the inclusion of studio art and performance courses, for example, into the liberal arts classification rather than excluding them as professional courses.

There is a concern with the way in which campuses communicate with SUNY Central, and especially how the role of faculty governance is maintained through these processes. This is a reassertion of the enduring interest of faculty governance in oversight of academic programs seeking positive verification of consultation by those who were consulted in the preparation of proposals going forward to SUNY. The resolution calls for a requirement that all system forms for academic program actions be amended to include a line for the Campus Governance Leader, or designee, to indicate by signature whether or not "all applicable campus shared governance procedures for consultation" were duly completed.

New York State charter schools operate under the regulatory oversight of the SUNY Charter Schools Committee, a committee of the SUNY Board of Trustees (the body that is responsible first and foremost for maintaining a high quality public education system). The Board of Trustees has sponsored legislation that authorizes charter schools to develop their own teacher certification process, independent of State Board of Education teacher requirements and of SUNY's own education programs that have been designed precisely to fulfill State Board of Education mandates. This is purportedly meant to address the looming shortage of teachers in New York State, but many see it as a way of short circuiting teacher unions. These teachers will only be able to work in charter schools. At the fall meeting, the SUNY Faculty Senate approved a resolution condemning this legislation, not so much because of resolute support among senators of the State Board of Education and the specific details of its certification requirements, but because the proposed alternative for charter schools undermines the professionalization of teaching. It was noted that SUNY holds teacher training programs to standards that

SUNY itself does not seem to be endorsing, and thus participates in the undermining of public education. A resolution was passed in the fall to condemn the action of the Charter School Committee and that the University Faculty Senate urges the Board of Trustees to use its authority to amend/alter/repeal the provisions. It was reported at the January plenary that the Board of Trustees was unmoved by the resolution.

With respect to the National Holiday celebrated on the second Monday in October (Columbus Day), the University Faculty Senate has asked campuses to recognize this as Indigenous Peoples Day. The University Faculty Senate President Gwen Kay was asked to bring this matter to the UUP and SUNY Board of Trustees asking that the name be changed on SUNY calendars. This is not a request for the state to rename the day but for campuses to use Indigenous Peoples' Day on their calendars. It was noted that this was discussed by our FSEC, but there has been no decision yet.

A resolution requests the establishment of a SUNY Diversity Postdoctoral Fellowship program and that the SUNY Faculty Diversity Program be modified to provide incentives for SUNY campuses to hire former Diversity Postdoctoral Fellows. A quite different issue concerning post-docs was found that on at least one campus, there is a plan to develop a policy for charging tuition and fees to post-docs to be paid by the PI.

A number of student-centered concerns were discussed at these plenaries including food security and a food bank on every campus (or relationship with one close to campus); tele-counseling; and academic advising. Regarding academic advising, campuses should make clear that academic decisions may impact financial aid, and that SUNY develop and deploy an automated financial aid system that would be customized to students' financial aid situations. A resolution was made that international students advising requests should refer international students to international programs staff when dealing with registration changes that could affect visa status; and that campuses develop mechanisms to identify such students to their advisors.

In recognition of the fact that stagnant direct state financial support and increasing operating costs have led to increasing broad-based fees for student services, it was resolved that broad-based fees be appropriately scrutinized to ensure that they are appropriate, and that they are implemented and administered in line with current policy and guidelines.

Young investigators in the system can submit drafts of grant applications to the Distinguished Academy committee, and members with experience will provide feedback on the draft. To find members of the Distinguished Academy by field, rank, or campus, they can be found on the SUNY Distinguished Academy webpage at <http://www.suny.edu/Distinguished-Academy/>.

6. Open discussion on improving SOOTs and making them more effective

Prof. Starks noted that it is not written in the Faculty ByLaws that SOOTs are required or mandatory. But it is agreed that evaluations of teaching are necessary. How do we try to make this the best possible instrument for teaching evaluations? We want to look into the

paper version versus electronic version, and also think about trying to customize for individual departments and courses.

The FSEC met with Mark Riale and Mike Vermilyea. One issue we found was the closing date for SOOTs is the last day of classes. Since some professors do hand these out during the exam period, the decision to push out this date would be an advantage. We realize that the paper version gets better response rates and we do need to look at the response rates of electronic versus paper. The general desire to move to the electronic version is the easiest way to get written comments from students; the paper version is harder to get individual comments.

Prof. Karp noted that a professor can designate time in class for either version but some students may not have the right technology with them to complete the electronic version.

Prof. Katja Kleinberg, Political Science, said that if the SOOT process could be optimized for students' smart phone, we could get better results. She feels that assessment is important but there is a bias against female professors versus male. We need acknowledgement that this is a problem.

Prof. Olivia Holmes, English, noted that foreign language speakers are often evaluated different from English speaking instructors.

Prof. Natalia Mijatovic, Art, said that some departments have different forms based on the type of class (for example, Art and Theatre) and those departments do rely on comments from students. The Music Department, for example, includes blank form for essay space. Online forms are not working for some types of classes because electronic devices are not allowed (for example, wood shop, sculpting).

It was noted that the campus will be moving to Qualtrics which can be flexible and may offer us the opportunity to tailor the SOOT forms for particular departments. It was noted that we do need to explore the male versus female bias.

Prof. Karp said that we will use additional discussion time at our next Senate meeting on March 27 to revisit this subject.

There will be a Free Speech and Diversity Panel Discussion on April 11 for faculty to discuss issues of free speech, speech codes, controversies at other universities, and other issues seen in the recent year.

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

Present: Christina Balderamma-Durbin, Anne Brady, Cassandra Bransford, Manas Chatterji, Kenneth Chiu, Leon Cosler, Marvin Diaz, Nikolay Dimitrov, Jill Dixon, Deborah Elliston, Heather Fiumera, Benjamin Fordham, Mark Fowler, Arianna Gerstein, Kevin Hatch, John Havard, Brendan Hennessey, Noah Henry, Stephanie Hess, Olivia Holmes, Andy Jean-Baptiste, Barry Jones, Jonathan Karp, Changhong Ke, Katja Kleinberg, Adam Laats, Kristina Lambright, Leslie Lander, Alistair Lees, Harold Lewis, Carl Lipo, Richard MacKenney, Daniel Magelby, Claudia Marques, Marcin Mazur, Natalija Mijatovic, Carol Miles, Richard Naslund, Donald Nieman, Vladimir Nikulin,

Nkiru Nzegwu, SB Park, Carolyn Pierce, Sumantra Sarkar, Andrew Scholtz, Pamela Smart, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Dana Stewart, Ruth Van Dyke, Adrian Vasiu, Erin Washburn, Yan Zhang, Harald Zils, Melissa Zinkin

Excused: Laura Anderson, Patrick Doyle, Joseph Graney, Sharon Holmes, Neha Khanna, Anthony Meder, Qi Wang, Alexi Zentner

Absent: Nancy Abashian, Serdar Atav, Anne Bailey, Elizabeth Casteen, George Catalano, Zu Yan Chen, Eric Cotts, Weiyong Dai, Daniel Thomas Davis, Patricia DiLorenzo, Leslie Gates, Sarah Gerk, Mattias Iser, James Jentsch, Hyeyoung Kang, Richard Lee, Brett Levinson, Stephen Levy, J. Koji Lum, Nagendra Nagarur, Catherine Ryan, Hong Zhang