

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
February 21, 2017

The fourth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2016-2017 academic year was called to order by Prof. Fernando Guzman, Mathematics, at 11:45 am.

1. Announcements

Prof. Fernando Guzman welcomed replacement Senators and those Senators back from leave.

2. Minutes

After no discussion, the minutes of the December 6, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

3. Annual Reports of 2015-2016 Faculty Senate standing committees and other committees

a. University Undergraduate Curriculum – Prof. Paul Schleuse reported on the main charges of the committee – certifying courses applying for gen ed and deciding on student petitions related to gen ed requirements. UUCC also conducts annual assessments of selected gen ed categories and certifies university-wide wide courses. Last year the UUCC streamlined the process for use of AP and IB scores for the Lab Science requirement. They also established a new system of granting academic credits for health and wellness and academic credit for time in military service.

b. Academic Computing and Educational Technology – Prof. Donald Loewen reported on initiatives that the committee took on last year -- digital security, technical support services, and integration of Blackboard/Banner project. Prof. Loewen thanked Prof. Ken Chiu for his help and input in regard to improving campus support and how it can be more effective. Panopto was selected to be used for streaming videos in teaching rather than through Blackboard.

c. Committee for the University Environment – Prof. Carl Lipo outlined many of the projects that CUE is working on -- campus sustainability plan; Living Building at the Nuthatch Hollow location; opening of connector road to release traffic around the brain; tree species identification tags; new parking lot and construction of wetland; more systematic relative to environmental impacts on campus; new app to help identify environmental changes around campus; identify trees that are being affected by diseases. Prof. Guzman asked about the tree identification. Is this just to identify species or will tags also identify when the tree was planted? Prof. Lipo said right now the plan is to identify the tree's specie but the age of a tree could be interesting, if known. Prof. Sandra Michael, Biological Sciences, asked about Nuthatch Hollow and using the area for research. In the past, this area was not used to its fullest potential because of restrictions of being able to fence off a research area. Prof. Lipo noted that the purpose of the land will be for research and education. We are also looking at putting deer fencing around as much of the area as we can (2.5 miles). We are also looking into keeping only part of the area open to public access. The important part of this plan is to have student and faculty having an area to do research projects that can be cordoned off.

d. Evaluation Coordinating Committee – Prof. Scott Craver reported that the ECC did a survey evaluation of Prof. Donald Loewen. The ECC also spent some time reviewing its processes, the timeline of when to review administrators, and the format of the survey. The timeline had been to evaluate an administrator every five years, but it was decided that five years may be too long, so it was agreed on an accelerated review plan (first evaluation in three years, second evaluation three years after that, and every five years thereafter). The ECC reviewed the list of administrators for accuracy and changed the length of the survey. With our revised timelines, there will be more surveys each year, so it will help the ECC do its work with a shorter survey. The standard survey is now about 13 questions and would be no more than 20 questions.

- e. Faculty Athletic Representative, Prof. Shelley Dionne reported that the FAR monitors athletic eligibility, academic performance, and compliance of NCAA standards. We had a record setting GPA in Spring 2016, the 21st consecutive semester with GPA average over 3.0. Last year we hosted a Hackathon with 150 participants.
- f. Intercollegiate Athletics Board – Mr. Terry Kane, chair of the IAB, reported that the IAB met two times last year to review the Athletics operating budget, scholarship, NCAA revenue distribution, student fees, and compliance in Athletics. The IAB also discussed private contributions to Athletics and how to use the funds, and an overview of Athletics' handling of student misconduct. IAB agendas and minutes can be found on their website.
- g. Committee on Committees – Prof. Candace Mulcahy reported that this committee fills committees. Prof. Mulcahy is the new chair, who has taken over for Caryl Ward, who is still on the committee. The committee refers to the faculty interest survey to fill committees, and the committee has found that the response rate to this survey is very low. The ConC would appreciate Senators encouraging colleagues to fill out survey. The EOP committee now has two co-chairs and is active after a one year hiatus. ConC has been encouraging CCPA more involvement/participation on committees. The ConC recently filled the University Calendar committee, which is now a joint committee, the Diversity Committee, and a committee on I/T security. Prof. Guzman encouraged everyone to sign up for committee work. We have 17 Senate committees and it is important for all colleagues to take a look at these committees and identify where they feel they can make a contribution.

4. New Business

- a. Merge plan for Graduate School of Education (GSE) with College of Community and Public Affairs (CCPA)

Prof. Guzman read the motion regarding the merge plan of GSE and CCPA.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee unanimously recommends acceptance of the proposed merger of the Graduate School of Education and the College of Community and Public Affairs in accordance with Provost Nieman's memorandum dated January 23, 2017 (attached) which was made in consultation with the Deans of the respective schools.

Provost Nieman reported that the faculty of both schools have voted to support this merger. Education will form the fifth department in CCPA. Provost Nieman reiterated the reasons for the merger as shown in his memo dated January 23, 2017.

GSE is currently the smallest of our schools. It is smaller than a dozen departments on campus. Enrollments have declined about 30% since 2009. This is not the fault of the faculty in GSE; similar enrollment declines are common across SUNY. We have not achieved the growth that was the rationale for creating a separate school in 2006. The projection had been that the school would more than double, but its growth has been negligible.

There is a strong synergy between the faculty and programs in the two schools. They have shared values. The values of GSE and CCPA are clear – community engagement, social justice, and diversity. This is a good foundation on which to integrate the two units.

CCPA is home to the Promise Zone, an externally funded program to help schools become community schools and hubs for health and social services delivery as well as education. Several GSE and CCPA faculty were instrumental to creating this. In fact, GSE faculty have written a community schools certificate program into a master's degree proposal with CCPA faculty.

As a department within CCPA, Education will be able to have autonomy they need but will benefit from collaboration with like-minded faculty in CCPA.

CCPA is our most diverse school. For the past year or more, CCPA has been involved in a vision process that looks to the future of CCPA. One major focus has been enhancing diversity and inclusion in CCPA. The school has decided to invest a significant portion of resources to diversity. School will be recruiting a consultant to work with faculty, staff, and students to develop policy and practices. A faculty member in GSE has begun to take part in this also. Both will benefit from enhanced vision and focus.

Provost Nieman noted that all faculty have voted to accept this merger and meetings/discussions to lay groundwork of the merger have already begun. Deans Strehle and Bronstein were available to answer any questions.

Prof. Lisa Tessman, Philosophy, and chair of the Diversity Committee, thanked Provost Nieman for showing how diversity and inclusion would be included in this merger.

Prof. Sandra Michael, Biological Sciences, wondered if, with decline in enrollment in GSE, less visibility might decrease the enrollment. Will enrollment go down if it's less visible? Dean Laura Bronstein responded that as a college, CCPA's enrollment has grown in all master's programs and the expectation is that Education will also grow. They will be creative in their work with GSE and hope that by coming together, they can do more in enrollment. CCPA has a cross-college enrollment and recruitment committee who looks at enrollment and what is working at one department that may work in another department -- this additional support may help GSE. Dean Susan Strehle noted that population in the northeast has declined and with many societal issues that young students face, it has become more difficult to recruit prospective teachers. Dean Strehle noted that this is a cultural and national issue. She believes that education will increase in the future and be fine.

Prof. Guzman asked about the name of the school and if there were plans to change it. Dean Bronstein responded that there will be an all-school meeting with faculty and staff on March 15 where this will be discussed.

Prof. Guzman thanked Provost Nieman, Dean Bronstein, and Dean Strehle for their attendance to provide answers and additional information.

After no more discussion, the merge plan was approved by unanimous vote.

b. Resolution on post-election concerns

At its December 6, 2016 meeting, the Senate asked the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to produce a resolution related to the post-election concerns. Prof. Guzman noted that there was considerable discussion in FSEC about this subject.

Prof. Tessman, chair of Diversity Committee, noted that the Diversity Committee is in agreement with this resolution.

Prof. Leslie Gates, Sociology, thanked the FSEC for the resolution and noted that it is important to support this. SUNY Albany's Senate has voiced their support for the "Petition to make SUNY locations Sanctuary Campuses" and there are also 4,932 signatures on the petition. Prof. Guzman noted that, as shown in our resolution, if this resolution is approved, the Senate instructs the Senate Chair to sign the SUNY petition. Prof. Guzman also noted that the executive orders of January 25 and 27, 2017 is a very fluid situation and these executive orders have been revised again today. A lot of attention has been given to the January 27 executive order (access to seven countries) and less attention to other resolution of January 25, 2017 for undocumented immigrants. We do not know how many SUNY students are undocumented immigrants. It was also noted that there may be many people who may have documents but may be at risk of being deported. With the expanded definition and expanded use of expedited removal, low level immigrant officers can deport immigrants, not just undocumented immigrants.

After no discussion, this motion was approved by a unanimous vote with 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

After no more business, the meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Present: Nancy Abashian, Laura Anderson, Serdar Atav, Anne Brady, Cassandra Bransford, Elizabeth Casteen, George Catalano, Manas Chatterji, Zu Yan Chen, Junghyun Cho, Leon Cosler, Nikolay Dimitrov, Carmen Ferradas, Heather Fiumera, Mark Fowler, Leslie Gates, Arianna Gerstein, Thomas Goodheart, Joseph Graney, Robert Guay, Fernando Guzman, Colleen Hailey, Christopher Hanes, Brendan Hennessey, Sharon Holmes, James Jentsch, Changhong Ke, Titilayo, Kristina Lambright, Leslie Lander, Dennis Lasser, Richard Lee, Carl Lipo, Tongshu Ma, Marla Mallette, Tami Mann, Sandra Michael, Robert Micklus, Carol Miles, Nagendra Nagarur, Richard Naslund, Jay Newberry, Donald Nieman, Vladimir Nikulin, Titilayo Okoror, Maxim Pensky, Carolyn Pierce, Sara Reiter, Hiroki Sayama, Pamela Smart, Harvey Stenger, Jennifer Stoever, Masatsugu Suzuki, Ruth Van Dyke, Adrian Vasiu, Joseph Weil, Bogum Yoon, Sara Wozniak, Hong Zhang

Excused: Rosemary Arrojo, Christopher Bartlette, Kenneth Chiu, Cynthia Connine, Salvator Fajardo, Benjamin Fordham, Barry Jones, Jonathan Karp, Katja Kleinberg, Natalija Mijatovic, Jose Morales-Collazo, Neil Christian Pages, John Starks

Absent: Anne Bailey, Eric Cotts, Weiyang Dai, Heather DeHaan, Marvin Diaz, Patricia DiLorenzo, Stephanie Hess, Leslie Heywood, Hyeyoung Kang, Alistair Lees, Gregory Robinson