

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 26, 2023

The first Faculty Senate meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year was called to order by Associate Professor and Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences Aaron Beedle, Faculty Senate chair, at 11:49 a.m., in Old Union Hall.

1. Special report from President Harvey G. Stenger

President Stenger presented Prof. Sara Reiter, School of Management, recently retired, with a University Medal for her contributions and years of service at the University.

Assoc. Dean George Bobinski, School of Management, shared some remarks on behalf of Shelley Dionne, Dean of the School of Management.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the May 2, 2023 meeting were approved.

3. Obituary Notices

Chair Beedle notified the body that Prof. Emeritus Donald Gause, Systems Science; Retired Prof. Albert "Al" Hamme, Music; Prof. Emeritus Ed Kokkelenberg, Economics; Retired Prof. Donald J. Levis, Psychology; Prof. Benita Roth, Sociology; and Retired Prof. Gayle Whittier, English, have passed away. Chair Beedle spoke about each and then asked for a moment of silence to remember these colleagues.

4. Election of 2023-2024 Faculty Senate Procedures Committee

The Nomination Committee of the Faculty Senate presented the following nominee:
Secretary – Heather Parks, Libraries

After no further discussion, Heather Parks, Libraries, nomination for Faculty Senate secretary was approved unanimously.

5. Reports

Chair Beedle noted that the 2022-2023 annual reports and the 2023-2024 committees are located on the Faculty Senate webpage. Chair Beedle thanked the Evaluation Coordinating Committee for its efforts in filling all vacant positions. The committee chairs were available for questions.

After no further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the receipt of the reports. The reports were approved unanimously.

A motion was then made and seconded to approve the receipt of the 2023-2024 committee membership. The committees were also approved unanimously.

6. New Business

Chair Beedle discussed the proposed amendments to the Faculty Senate Bylaws initiated last spring by a sub-committee of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The goal of the sub-committee was to codify some procedural changes. The sub-committee then discussed the changes with the FSEC, the President, and the Provost. The proposed amendments were

then submitted to the Bylaws Committee and Diversity Committee for review. The Bylaws Committee met in August and made a few adjustments to the wording. Those adjustments were then approved by the FSEC. The Diversity Committee reviewed and approved the amendments.

Notification to faculty of approved amendments

- “Decker College of Nursing” was updated to “Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences.” This amendment throughout the bylaws was approved by the FSEC on 9/12/23. As this is an update to a unit name, previously approved by the faculty senate, no faculty vote is required to update the bylaws.

Proposed amendments include (provided/posted two weeks ago on the Faculty Senate webpage):

- Article I, Definitions, **h. Academic Subdivisions**, update the language to include; schools and colleges; departments and programs; incorporating the School of the Arts.
- Article III, Title B. Faculty Senate, 5. Executive Committee, **b. Composition** & **c. Officers**, update the language to include; other leaders of schools and colleges, including the chair of the Budget Review and Program Review Committees as ex officio non-voting members of the FSEC.
- Article III, Title B. Faculty Senate, 5. Executive Committee, **b. Composition** & **c. Officers**, update the language to include; allowing the FSEC to elect a chair who is not an official member of the committee.
- Article III, Title B. Faculty Senate, **6. Election**, **a. Executive Committee** & **c. Term of Office**; remove the language; “Each constituency shall nominate candidates from the constituency to a number at least twice as many as the constituency’s membership on the Executive Committee,” and replace it with, “Nominations for election shall be by petition within each of the constituencies defined in 5.b.” The petitions must be signed by a minimum of 5 constituents. Should there be no nominee for a given constituency, the Executive Committee shall nominate candidates from among the entire constituency.
- Article III, Title B. Faculty Senate, 6. Election, **a. Executive Committee** & **c. Term of Office**, update the language to remove “and the Chairperson of the Executive Committee” to now read; “The term of the Chairperson of the Faculty Senate shall be automatically extended for a third year upon election to the chairperson position.”
- Article IV, Title B. Types of Committees, 3. University-Wide Committees, **a. Search Committees for senior level administrators**. See below for amendments with additional proposed changes from the floor of the Senate (9/26/23 discussion).
- Article V, Title A. SUNY University Faculty Senate, **1. Election**, update the language to include; “Nominating petitions must be signed by a minimum of 5 members of the voting faculty and Should there be no nominee, the Executive Committee shall nominate candidates from among the voting faculty.” In addition, “the second-ranking candidate in the election will serve as the alternate.” “If no such candidate is identified, a separate election will be held for the alternate.”
- Article VI, Title A. General Organization, **2. Senior-level administrators**, update the language on senior-level administrative interim positions that become vacant. In

addition, if one of the offices becomes vacant the President or their designee will work with the constituents to determine what is appropriate for an interim appointment. Before an interim appointment can be made, there needs to be a discussion with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee or sub-committee. In addition, there should be a discussion on the length of the term and a search for an interim appointment. For the re-appointment of an interim, there shall be a discussion with the administration and faculty governance before interim re-appointment.

- Article VI, Title A. General Organization, 3. Sub-unit Chairpersons or Directors of Sub-units, adding a subsection with the following language: **b. Receiverships**; “Receiverships are rare but sometimes necessary. The authority to place a sub-unit in receivership resides with the Provost. Members of a sub-unit placed in receivership shall be clearly notified of the duration of the receivership and the conditions to be met for the receivership to end. Prior to placing the sub-unit in receivership, there will be a consultation between the President or Provost with either the full Faculty Senate Executive Committee or a subcommittee comprised of the Chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Chair of the Faculty Senate, and one or more additional members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee chosen by its Chair.”
- Article VI, Title B. **Establishment and Elimination of Academic Units and Sub-units**, update the committee name in the following language, “A proposal for the establishment of a new academic unit shall be considered by the **Educational Policies and Priorities Committee** of the Faculty Senate for its review” update to reflect, “A proposal for the establishment of a new academic unit shall be considered by the **Program Review Committee** of the Faculty Senate for its review.”
- Appendix, Title A. Faculty Senate Committees, **Evaluation Coordinating Committee**, update and expand the **charge** to reflect the following;
 1. To coordinate or conduct regular evaluations of those senior administrators who have significant responsibilities involving them in the academic program. These positions currently include, but are not limited to: the President, the Provost, all Vice Presidents, all Deans, all Vice Provosts, and other leaders of schools and colleges, and the Chief Information Officer.
 2. To prepare confidential reports for distribution only to the administrator being evaluated; that administrator’s immediate supervisor; the President and Provost; and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
 3. At the discretion of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, to work with parallel bodies of the Professional Staff Senate regarding regular evaluations following the guidance of the Executive Committee as regards the nature and scope of the cooperation.
- Appendix, Title A. Faculty Senate Committees, **Evaluation Coordinating Committee, composition**. See below for amendments with additional proposed changes from the floor of the Senate (9/26/23 discussion).

The following amendments include additional changes that were proposed at the faculty senate discussion on 9/26/23 and approved by the senate to forward to the full voting faculty.

- Article IV, Title B. Types of Committees, 3. University-Wide Committees..., **a. Search Committees for senior-level administrators**; addition of co-chairs for administrative searches, one determined by the President or designee and one by the faculty governance, chairs shall be identified early in the process and specifies that there is a discussion between the administration and faculty governance around the nature of the search. Chair Beedle brought to the floor two additions to the amendments for discussion, submitted in advance of the meeting. These additions to clarify the language include; adding “the timeline” to discussion items with faculty governance in initiating searches and adding “senior-level” to clarify the administrative positions subject to these procedures. Both recommended additions to the bylaws amendment were motioned from the floor and then approved unanimously by the Senate.
- Appendix, Title A. Faculty Senate Committees, **Evaluation Coordinating Committee**, update and expand the **composition** to reflect the following; The Evaluation Coordinating Committee (ECC) will consist of nine (approved by faculty March 2021) **full-time faculty members** chosen by the Committee on Committees and confirmed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, including one representative from each of the following units: the Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences, the School of Management, the College of Community and Public Affairs, the Watson College of Engineering and Applied Science, School of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences (approved by faculty May 2016), the Library, and three representatives from Harpur College of Arts and Sciences, including one member from each of the following Divisions: Humanities, Science and Mathematics, and Social Sciences. ECC members will serve **one-year** terms.

Prof. John Starks, University Faculty Senator, pointed out within the amendment of Appendix, Title A. Faculty Senate Committees, the language should be adjusted to reflect, “full-time **voting** faculty members” instead of “full-time faculty members”.

A motion was made and seconded to approve adding “voting” to the “full-time faculty members” language.

Prof. Murali Jagannathan, School of Management, expressed concern with committee membership being a one-year term and the difficulty with those who have little experience.

Chair Beedle explained that most of the Faculty Senate committees' terms are a one-year appointment. Retired Prof. Sara Reiter, School of Management, clarified that the committees are a two-year term, excluding the Evaluation Coordinating Committee which is a one-year appointment.

A motion was made and seconded to adjust the service of the committees to a two-year term.

After no further discussion, Chair Beedle then asked for a vote on the two motions from the floor to approve the language of, “full-time **voting** faculty” and adjust the committee service to a **two**-year term. The motions from the floor were approved unanimously.

Chair Beedle then asked for a motion to move all proposed amendments including the changes made today and forward them to the full voting faculty for ratification.

A motion was made and seconded to forward all proposed amendments to the full voting faculty for ratification. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Beedle announced that the next Faculty Senate meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

Present: Michael Armstrong, Christina Balderrama-Durbin, Aaron Beedle, Lina Begdache, Megan Benson, David Bisaha, Christopher Bishop, Jeremy Blackburn, Peter Borgesen, Nicole Cameron, Luca Cassidy, Junghyun Cho, Laura Cook, Leon Cosler, Weiyang Dai, Sidney Dement, Sean Dunwoody, Laura Fine Hawkes, Rodney Gabel, Matt Gallagher, Ariana Gerstein, Donald Hall, Brendan Hennessey, Nora Henry, Douglas Holmes, Murali Jagannathan, Barry Jones, Rebecca Kissling, Jonathan Krasno, BrieAnna Langlie, Michael Lawler, Colin Lyons, Andre Mathis, Tom McDonough, Anthony Meder, Ralph Miller, Debi Mishra, Luiza Moreira, Christopher Morgan-Knapp, H.R. Naslund, Vladimir Nikulin, Julien Panetier, Mark Poliks, Xingye Qiao, Shay Rabineau, James Rea, Anton Schick, Olga Shvetsova, Gurpreet Singh, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Melvin Whitehead, Wei Xiao, Sarah Young, Hong Zhang, Ning Zhou

Excused: Zu-yan Chen, Leslie Heywood, Clarice Kelleher, Marcin Mazur, Paul McShee, Thomas O'Brien, S.B. Park, Heather Parks, Kirsten Prior, Bogum Yoon, Melissa Zinkin

Absent: Nancy Abashian, Manoj Agarwal, David Campbell, Alex Chase-Levenson, Kenneth Chiu, Guy German, John Havard, Wei-Cheng Lee, Meg Leja, Jason Moore, Titilayo Okoror, Marguerite Wilson