

MINUTES OF  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
May 2, 2023

The fourth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2022-2023 academic year was called to order by Professor of Art and Design Natalija Mijatovic, Faculty Senate chair, at 11:48 a.m. in Old Union Hall.

1. Minutes

Minutes from the March 28, 2023 meeting were approved.

2. Election of 2022-2023 Faculty Senate officers

The Nominating Committee of the Faculty Senate presented the following slate of nominees:

- Chair - Aaron Beedle, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Vice Chair - Rodney Gabel, Decker College of Nursing and Health Sciences

No additional nominations were received. A motion was made and seconded, the slate was approved with 45 in favor, no abstention, and no opposition.

Future chair Prof. Beedle reported that she was humbled to be elected to this body and looking forward to serving as chair for the upcoming year. She noted three emails and surveys that were sent out by Kellie Hovancik. Two were from the Evaluation Coordination Committee (ECC), and the other was for the 2023-2024 Faculty Senate elections. She encouraged the senators to complete the surveys.

3. Approval of degree candidates

Chair Mijatovic reported that 4,125 graduates have filed an application for a degree (1,190 graduate students; 2,935 undergraduate students). A motion was made and seconded to approve the degree candidates. After no discussion, it was approved with 45 in favor, no opposition, and no abstention.

4. New business

Chair Mijatovic noted that thirteen TLEL programs are being requested to be deactivated. She explained that the deactivations result from low enrollment and conflicts with offering the required courses. She added that for the MAT Foreign Language programs, there is an added conflict with inadequate staffing for the courses offered in the programs. The programs that are requested in the proposal to be deactivated include:

1. Adolescence Education: French (Initial) MAT
2. 4+1 Adolescence Education: French (Initial) MAT
3. Adolescence Education: Spanish (Initial) MAT
4. 4+1 Adolescence Education: Spanish (Initial) MAT
5. Adolescence Education: Biology (Advanced) MSED
6. Adolescence Education: Chemistry (Advanced) MSED
7. Adolescence Education: Earth Science (Advanced) MSED
8. Adolescence Education: English (Advanced) MSED
9. Adolescence Education: French (Advanced) MSED
10. Adolescence Education: Mathematics (Advanced) MSED
11. Adolescence Education: Physics (Advanced) MSED

12. Adolescence Education: Social Studies (Advanced) MEd

13. Adolescence Education: Spanish (Advanced) MEd

Prof. Matthew McConn, TLEL department chair, was available for questions.

Prof. Brendan Hennessey, Romance Languages and Literatures spoke for his colleagues in French and Spanish, requesting that the following programs not be deactivated because of not having to go through the process of reactivating these programs. He requested to leave these programs on the books and give them time to deal with the staffing issue and additional time to discuss with the faculty.

1. Adolescence Education: French (Initial) MAT

2. 4+1 Adolescence Education: French (Initial) MAT

3. Adolescence Education: Spanish (Initial) MAT

4. 4+1 Adolescence Education: Spanish (Initial) MAT

9. Adolescence Education: French (Advanced) MEd

13. Adolescence Education: Spanish (Advanced) MEd

Prof. McConn responded that he did not have strong objections to his request. He did work with the department chair, and clinical partners at BOCES to work through some solutions but it did not work out. He added that enrollment in foreign languages is low across the state.

Provost Hall asked Prof. McConn why formally remove the programs rather than just letting them sit in the background, unstaffed, or are you afraid of false advertisement?

Prof. McConn responded that since they were deactivating other programs not enrolled because of our online programs, they decided to include these programs.

Chair Mijatovic noted that the senators could vote on either of the following:

- Vote on the motion as presented to deactivate the thirteen programs.
- Vote on the motion to table this for a vote at the Faculty Senate meeting in the Fall.
- Vote on the motion to exempt and amend this proposal with the programs that Prof. Hennessey mentioned.

Prof. McConn made a motion to exempt the following language programs from the proposal; Adolescence Education: French (Initial) MAT, 4+1 Adolescence Education: French (Initial) MAT, Adolescence Education: Spanish (Initial) MAT, 4+1 Adolescence Education: Spanish (Initial) MAT, Adolescence Education: French (Advanced) MEd, and Adolescence Education: Spanish (Advanced) MEd.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the exemption of the language programs from the proposal. After no further discussion, it was approved with 34 in favor, no opposition, and 2 abstentions.

Provost Hall recommended revisiting this in the fall and that there is no reason to keep programs on the books that are not viable.

Chair Mijatovic then asked for a motion to approve discontinuing the remaining programs; Adolescence Education: Biology (Advanced) MEd, Adolescence Education: Chemistry (Advanced) MEd, Adolescence Education: Earth Science (Advanced) MEd, and Adolescence Education: English (Advanced) MEd, Adolescence Education: Mathematics (Advanced) MEd, Adolescence Education: Physics (Advanced) MEd, and Adolescence Education: Social Studies (Advanced) MEd.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the remaining programs to be deactivated. After no further discussion, it was approved with 45 in favor, no opposition, and 1 abstention.

## 5. Reports

- a. Report from Prof. Jonathan Krasno, chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee  
Prof. Krasno reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) met thirteen times during the Spring semester of 2023 (including one time at the end of the previous semester), pursuing its usual business of reviewing academic/programmatic proposals, interviewing officials from across campus, and examining Binghamton University policy and procedures, including our bylaws.

In addition, the FSEC participated in searches for the Founding Director of the School of Arts and Dean of Libraries meeting as a group with each candidate who visited campus. These two searches took up a great deal of the committee's time, a reflection of the changing procedures for administrative searches that offer an increased role for campus governance bodies. These changes began last year and have been carried forward with the support of our new Provost, Donald Hall. Prof. Krasno then thanked; President Stenger, members of FSEC, and especially Neyda Gilman who served as co-chair of the search for the Dean of Libraries.

Prof. Krasno noted a reference to administrative search processes which is also relevant to one of the ongoing projects that the committee worked on throughout the year, but especially in the Spring semester: a revision of the faculty bylaws. One item of business awaiting the Faculty Senate this fall is a set of bylaws revisions that add these search processes for top administrators, and also address issues involving interim appointments, department receiverships, and some changes to the ECC evaluation process and reporting chain that we hope will improve accountability. He added that no "constitution" is never perfect (thus the ability to amend them), but these changes represent real steps forward in these areas. He acknowledged the hard work of many members of the committee, particularly Prof. Barry Jones, Economics.

The committee also dealt with its usual array of University business, staffing committees (currently the emerging search for Dean of Watson), approving programmatic proposals,

and hearing from an array of officials across campus. He noted a portion of our early meetings was spent trying to find out more and understand the implications of the fast-changing reports about various options to “integrate” with SUNY-Broome, a possibility or threat (depending on your point of view) that eventually fizzled. The Joint Task Force on Student Opinion on Teaching that he reported had been created last semester and has begun its meetings. He expects it to continue its work over the summer.

Lastly, he thanked the FSEC members for their time and patience this year. He also thanked Kellie Hovancik, Chair Mijatovic, and Prof. Sara Reiter, SOM.

b. Report from Prof. Sara Reiter, University Faculty Senator

Prof. Reiter reported on the University Faculty Senate plenaries held in January 2022 and April 2023. She reported the following:

- Chancellor John B. King Jr. is putting together his leadership team naming the Chief Diversity Officer and Sustainability Officer
- The Provost Search is underway
- Chancellor King is committed to visiting all 64 SUNY campuses (he was here in January)
- Chancellor King’s vision for SUNY has 4 pillars:
  - Student success – a place for everyone, enrollment initiatives
  - Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion focus so students can thrive
  - Research and scholarship – to double research expenditures
  - Support economic development in NYS

In response to sector questions, the Chancellor spoke strongly in support of liberal arts as a civic issue and affirmed the centrality of faculty rights in controversies over free speech. The PRODiG program will be assessed and re-designed following the expected Supreme Court decision on Affirmative Action. In response to concerns about campus staffing problems and dissatisfaction with policies on remote work, the Chancellor said that more flexibility may be appropriate but questioned what is the right balance.

Prof. Reiter noted the SUNY initiatives, including hiring a fellow to help campuses determine how to do PLA (Prior Learning Assessment). Every campus will decide on what types of things they will give credit for (various exams, military service, work experience) but the prior decisions of other campuses are respected in transfer. SUNY is also engaged in a project to investigate and shorten times for Academic Program Review. Next year, SUNY campuses will conduct Campus Climate surveys of faculty, staff, and students. If campuses do not develop their survey (which Binghamton plans to do), they would have to administer the SUNY survey.

Prof. Reiter then discussed the following resolutions; Workplace conduct policy and conflict resolution, Best practices for administrative searches for Associate Dean and above (the Binghamton FSEC has been working on by-laws changes to incorporate best practices for searches for the Dean level and above), and Restoration of Conversations in the Disciplines program. A new similar program is expected to be launched next year.

UFS Senator Melissa Zinkin, Philosophy, pointed out that the UFS also endorsed a resolution from the Community College sector on standing up to legislative and other attacks on academic freedom.

Chair Mijatovic thanked Prof. Krasno and Prof. Reiter for their reports.

She noted on behalf of the Campus Governance Leaders (CGLs), the group would like to express their profound appreciation for Prof. Sara Reiter, who is retiring after 30 years of service at Binghamton University. Prof. Reiter's contributions to faculty governance include; serving as the chair of the Faculty Senate, Secretary of the Faculty Senate, University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Diversity Committee, Program Review Committee, Budget Review Committee, Chair of Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee, School of Management, University Faculty Senator, Campus Governance Leader (CGL), and a Road Map SP 3 steering committee member. She received a Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service. Prof. Reiter's' experience working with the SUNY systems has made our progress grow smoother and faster. Chair Mijatovic and the senators thanked Prof. Reiter with a standing ovation.

Lastly, Chair Mijatovic noted that this is her last Faculty Senate meeting serving as chair. She thanked the CGLs, FSEC, Budget Review Committee, Program Review Committee, and Diversity Committee, among many others. She also thanked the divisions, departments, and programs. She encouraged members to serve on the Faculty Senate committees and to continue to bring forth their concerns, suggestions, and issues.

Prof. John Starks, Middle Eastern, and Ancient Mediterranean Studies expressed concern with the academic calendar and confusion with classes being held on a different day. He provided examples with one being this week, Friday classes being held on Wednesday, and affecting when exams are held. He suggested that the Calendar Committee address this for future purposes.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Present: Manoj Agarwal, Michael Armstrong, Jane Bear-Lehman, Aaron Beedle, Megan Benson, David Bisaha, Christopher Bishop, Jeremy Blackburn, Kevin Boettcher, Alex Chase-Levenson, Zu-yan Chen, Dina Danon, Jeremy Dibbell, Patrick Doyle, Nicole Fenty, Rodney Gabel, Guy German, Ariana Gerstein, Neyda Gilman, Thomas Goodheart, Donald Hall, Brendan Hennessey, Norah Henry, Douglas Holmes, Mattias Iser, Clarice Kelleher, Rebecca Kissling, Jonathan Krasno, Marcin Mazur, Tom McDonough, Natalija Mijatovic, Richard Naslund, Julien Panetier, Chang Hee Park, Xingye Qiao, Jessie Reeder, Sara Reiter, Hiroki Sayama, Jeffrey Schertzer, Anton Schick, Thomas Sinclair, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Ozlem Tonguc, Kenneth White, Wei Xiao, Hong Zhang, Ning Zhou, John Zilvinskis, Melissa Zinkin

Excused: Christina Balderrama-Durbin, Peter Borgesen, Nicole Cameron, Junghyun Cho, Jakob Feinig, Murali Jagannathan, John Kuhn, BrieAnna Langlie, Richard MacKenney, Robert Micklus, Ralph Miller, Luiza Moreira, Jagannathan, Murali, Vladimir Nikulin, Ravi Palat, S.B. Park, Bonggu Shim, Olga Shvetsova, Gurpreet Singh, Sarah Young, Harald Zils

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Absent: Kim Brimhall, Tracy Brooks, Kenneth Chiu, Weiyang Dai, Anindya Debnath, John Havard, Leslie Heywood, Wei-Cheng Lee, Paul McShee, Jason Moore, Candace Mulcahy, Aritha Nirmal, Titilayo Okoror, James Sobel