

MINUTES OF  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
May 2, 2017

The sixth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2016-2017 academic year was called to order by Prof. Fernando Guzman, Mathematics, at 11:48 am.

1. Minutes

After no discussion, the minutes of the March 21, 2017 meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Tobacco Free Campus Initiative

Vice President JoAnn Navarro and Johann Fiore Conte, Assistant Vice President for Health and Wellness, reported on the Tobacco Free Campus Initiative that will take effect August 1, 2017. A committee of 30 people representative of groups throughout campus has been working on this since January 2016.

Prof. Chris Bartlett, Music, asked about the compliance portion of the policy. Vice President Navarro noted that we will be using a soft compliance with a peer-to-peer approach. If we do see an individual who is not following policy consistently, there may be a stronger discipline approach; a mechanism is in place to deal with this if we have to.

Prof. Les Lander, Computer Science, asked if vapor smoking was part of this policy. Ms. Fiore-Conte responded that yes, this policy pertains to any type of tobacco product.

3. Approval of degree candidates

The list of 3,400 candidates (2,864 under graduates and 605 graduates) was presented. This was approved by unanimous vote.

4. 2017-2018 Faculty Senate Procedures Committee

The slate of officers was sent to the voting faculty on May 1. The Faculty Bylaws state that the slate be sent two weeks prior to it being put to vote at the May meeting. The slate was made available on May 1 which was not two weeks prior to this meeting. There has been an ongoing problem of low interest of faculty participation. Prof. Guzman asked that Senators speak to their departments and ask colleagues to be more active in faculty governance (i.e. Senate, Faculty Senate Executive Committee, committees, etc.)

A motion was made and seconded to suspend rules in the Faculty Bylaws, so the slate could be voted on at this meeting. After no discussion, this was approved favorably with one abstention.

The slate is:

Chair -- Jonathan Karp, History and Judaic Studies  
Vice Chair -- Pamela Smart, Art History and Anthropology  
Secretary -- Carolyn Pierce, Decker School of Nursing

Prof. John Starks, chair of FSEC, knows the huge time commitment is difficult for some faculty. It is not only a lack of interest, but actually a reasoned process on how a faculty member can add this service in to everything else they are doing. Prof. Starks is very much hoping to have a robust contribution by these incoming officers and hope to continue the practice of open conversations that Prof. Guzman instituted under his leadership. It is important to have genuine discussions on how we move forward on important issues. Prof.

Starks thanked these faculty who are willing to serve as Senate officers and believes they will represent us well.

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

Prof. Jonathan Karp thanked colleagues for their expression of confidence. He looks forward to working with FSEC and all committee members. He noted that he sees important challenges in the coming year such as concern about the position that higher education has in our culture in politics, and participation in faculty governance which is very important.

## 5. *Reports*

### a. Prof. Pamela Smart, University Faculty Senator

Prof. Smart reported on the SUNY Senate Plenary held at SUNY Canton, April 20-21. This was the last meeting with Peter Knuepfer as President of SUNY Senate. He has been an enormously well regarded and effective president. We'll be glad to see him back on campus, but he will be missed at SUNY Senate. Gwen Kay from SUNY Oswego was elected as the new President.

Carey Hatch, Associate Provost for Academic Technologies and Independent Services, reported on SUNY OER (Open Educational Resources). The 2017-18 state budget includes \$8M to be shared between SUNY and CUNY to further the provision of open educational resources, including electronic books. It's anticipated that this will target high enrollment courses to maximize the effective of the funds. College textbooks have increased in price since 1998 by 145% (compared to an increase in recreational books of 1.6%). This means that some students simply don't use the assigned text and are at a significant disadvantage as a consequence. Data from Tompkins Cortland Community College show that Intermediate Calculus had a retention rate of 63% prior to the introduction of OER, rising 78% following the provision of access to electronic instructional resources. In Intro to Psychology, 50% of students passed with a grade of C or better prior to OER, and that rate increased to 71%. Some SUNY community colleges have taken this up systematically, with entire degree programs using OER. The results are being tracked. SUNY is motivated in part because of its concern with mounting student debt and issues of accessibility for low-income students. SUNY is also cognizant of the Smart Schools Bond Act that is equipping high schools with electronic teaching environments that are far superior to what is encountered on college campuses, so there's also an issue of our meeting student expectations. Binghamton has recently been promoting ORB (Open Repository) and OER.

The next two items seem to be aspirational, and likely won't be put into production any time soon, though work is being done on their development.

One of the limitations of OER is that at the end of the semester, students lose access to that content. SUNY's Open Pedagogy and Next Generation Learning Environment (NGLE) is working on developing electronic environments that will enable students to retain access to and build on throughout their degree, and perhaps beyond it. It would include class notes, assigned texts, and students' notes and assignments. Another long range aspirational project is the BlockCert initiative. It's being explored in recognition of the expectation that many SUNY students will earn credits and credentials piecemeal throughout their lives. It would use the kind of authentication system used by Bitcoin to enable students to essentially "own" their credits, rather than having to arrange for the

distribution of transcripts, often from multiple institutions, when applying for jobs, with the associated costs and burden on the graduates and on the issuing institutions.

The other principal item of discussion concerning access was the Excelsior program. SUNY is still trying to work out the fine print with New York State. Excelsior will make up the difference between this year's tuition and a student's Pell and TAP funding, for families with a household income of \$100,000 this year, increasing to \$125,000 by 2019. There are two key issues, one for campuses, the other for students. Even if tuition rises, the state's Excelsior contribution will only make up the difference to the tuition at the time of admission. So this introduces differential tuition, and it puts the burden of making up the difference to SUNY, or to campuses. For students, the eligibility requirement to complete 30 credits does nothing to help students who have work or family commitments outside of their study. And students cannot reenter the program should they lose eligibility in any one semester. In addressing tuition only, it does nothing to address the rising burden of fees and housing. And there is the requirement to remain in New York State for a period beyond graduation, or the grant turns into a loan.

The state budget supported Maintenance of Effort (MOE) meant to sustain operational needs of SUNY and CUNY, but it does not include raises, leaving a significant shortfall for campuses to cover.

Prof. Smart outlined two other matters that she felt will be of concern for this body.

The SUNY Provost reported that a review of Gen Ed will be done. It has been 20 years since it was first developed, and there has been no systematic review since.

The Faculty Senate resolution to extend participation in faculty governance to contingent faculty barely squeaked by, largely because its proponents insisted that it really was an empty resolution to simply encourage campuses to consider this issue, though the language was in fact a stronger endorsement for the extension of a governance role to contingent faculty. Prof. Smart noted that she opposed the resolution because to have a meaningful conversation about these issues, we need to parse out the differences among various categories of contingent faculty (clinical faculty conducting research, teaching and service in the Pharmacy School, for example, who occupy a very different set of circumstances than part time adjunct faculty). Prof. Smart continued to say that she does think that this is an important issue for Faculty Senate to address in the near future, though we need to be clear about the difference between casualized labor and the implications of that, and clinical faculty. It might be worth noting that University of Buffalo, in an effort to afford non-tenure track contract faculty somewhat better conditions, as it was presented (or perhaps to improve its statistics for ranking purposes), has taken the step of converting a significant number of contract positions into clinical lines.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has begun conversation on these matters, and it seems that a good first move for us would be to learn about what is going on across campus at present in terms of the participation of contingent faculty in governance within departments and in each of the schools. In some departments they have a vote in faculty meetings, in others they don't play a role at all.

b. Prof. John Starks, FSEC chair

Prof. Starks reported on the business of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for the spring 2017 semester. The FSEC met on 11 occasions from January 17 to April 25, in addition to meeting with the full Senate on three occasions. They will meet twice more this semester on May 9 and 16. Members of the FSEC met with each of the three finalists for Dean of Harpur College and Dean of the Graduate School.

The FSEC began the semester addressing the merger of CCPA and GSE into a single school with Provost Nieman and Deans Bronstein and Strehle. Upon request, they provided and revised a memorandum of plans and goals for the merger, in keeping with the model presented at the founding of the GSE; this was also shared at FSEC's request with the entire faculty of the two schools. FSEC questions ranged from administrative, space, and budgetary impacts, to the profile of Education as a departmental unit, to anticipated tenure and promotion changes. The FSEC and Faculty Senate ultimately approved the merger.

The FSEC also spoke with Susan Strehle, as Dean of the Graduate School, about the new interdisciplinary programs that are housed in or report through the Graduate School, otherwise not recognized as a distinct academic unit. Faculty, staff, and financial resource management continue to be the most pressing questions about sustainable growth within these programs, especially when undergraduate programs or coursework in departments outside the interdisciplinary graduate program are depended on for its operation or development.

According to standard procedure, the Evaluation Coordinating Committee provides administrator evaluations for review and optional comment by the administrator, that officer's immediate supervisor, and any FSEC member who arranges with Laura O'Neil to read the written, undistributed report. As the University President's evaluation from fall 2016 would have otherwise included no local supervisory review, the FSEC met with President Stenger to discuss confidentially his reflections and ours on the outcomes from that evaluation.

Also, the FSEC decided that the Chief Diversity Officer should be included among regularly evaluated administrators, and that the ECC should not divide aggregate data in their reporting of evaluation responses by subgroup (e.g. staff, Harpur faculty, etc.), but that the FSEC reserves the right to request such division, if so desired.

At the request of the Faculty Senate, the FSEC drafted and approved a resolution in response to the US Presidential Executive Orders of January 2017 and other post inauguration directives targeting and limiting diversity and inclusivity. We also endorsed the SUNY Faculty Senate's resolution seeking clarity and support for approved "sanctuary" measures and the DACA.

FSEC reviewed numerous degree program changes from diverse areas such as SOM, Comparative Literature, and several from Education. Questions were raised about a previously approved GSE PhD program that was not sent forward to SUNY. This was awaiting the school merger decision. It is realized that vigilant follow up on program approvals is just as important as attention to their inception. After numerous discussions and meetings, including a substantive Q&A with Susan Strehle, Tom O'Brien and Candace Mulcahy from GSE, the FSEC recognized that changes proposed for the nine MEd programs should proceed to Albany and that disagreements over changes

proposed for the eight MAT programs should be discussed further between the Provost, the Deans of Harpur, GSE and CCPA, and the chairs of Harpur partner-departments in the disciplines. The FSEC is not authorized to be an arbiter in these types of curricular disputes, but in the interest of greater openness and communication, the FSEC may be soon considering procedural recommendations for earlier prior consultation of and comment periods for partner programs on proposed changes housed within other graduate programs.

The Joint Committee on the University Calendar was instituted and has now met multiple times this semester to consider calendar decisions with substantial faculty input from various disciplinary perspectives.

The FSEC carefully developed and communicated questions for the Harpur and Graduate School Dean finalists, and many members participated in multiple Q&A sessions with candidates in each search, allowing for substantial assessments of all candidates' qualifications and fit for the position and for Binghamton University.

FSEC offered amendments to the Bylaws regarding the charge of the Budget Review Committee, extending its capacity to monitor budgets prior to their enactment, and the terms under which certain clinical faculty may participate as voting members within campus-wide governance structures.

FSEC met with Libraries Dean Curtis Kendrick to discuss several initiatives undertaken or underway there since his arrival in January 2016 -- more work with sciences; technology; data management and cataloging changes; space management; SUNY-wide resource sharing.

FSEC reviewed reports submitted to Albany on Applied Learning initiatives at Binghamton University and recommended, for ultimate Faculty Senate approval, that Applied Learning not be mandatory for all Bachelors' graduates. This was subsequently passed by the Faculty Senate. FSEC also reviewed the I/T Strategic Plan, the Video Monitoring Systems policy, multiple amendments to campus plans for Start-Up New York, and we offered a strong FSEC endorsement of our Graduate School of Education's expressions of concern about the administrative and bureaucratic overreach proposed in a draft of the SUNY Teach NY Policy.

FSEC also talked with Joann Navarro, Vice President for Operations, and Johann Fiore Conte, Assistant Vice President for Health and Wellness, to share some information and take questions on the Smoke Free Campus initiative to be enacted in August 2017.

Several issues with and proposals for improving SOOT evaluations were discussed, as mentioned in previous Faculty Senate meetings. Some simple changes may be enacted before the next academic year, but a broader discussion of instruments for evaluating teaching and the use of those instruments in tenure and promotion may be necessary next academic year.

FSEC also worked extensively on seeking to fill nominations for FSEC representatives from several schools and divisions, and to develop a strong slate of Faculty Senate officers for 2017-19, and have just gotten started on naming an ad hoc committee of the FSEC to develop a charge and identify membership for an Interdisciplinary Teaching &

Research Task Force to be assembled by the Provost and faculty, with joint chair between administration and faculty.

The FSEC will end this year with two further meetings, primarily focused on review of Road Map proposals to allow an opportunity to give significantly increased faculty input through FSEC and the Budget Review Committee.

Prof. Starks commented that he looks forward to serving with the new Faculty Senate officers next year to continue the strong work we have been engaged in on behalf of the faculty, staff, students, and the entire Binghamton University community. It has been an honor to work with Senate Chair Fernando Guzmán, whose devotion to diversity within the whole university community and to principled, faculty governance of the curriculum and its highest standards; with Senate Vice Chair Sandra Michael, a Distinguished Service Professor, and with Senate Secretary Sara Reiter, an awardee this year of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service, nominated by the Campus Governance Leaders and the School of Management.

Prof. Jonathan Karp asked about the Excelsior program. Prof. Starks responded that we understand that the full information is not available but is in effect. We will have to take a substantial role in supporting this program financially. Provost Nieman noted that the financial impact on the university is not known at this point. He noted that we do have money in the budget to support this program which is very complicated. In terms of making the salary point progressive, it would have been a good idea. Vice Provost McGoff was on the SUNY-wide committee who will be running this program. It was designed by the highest form of government and many things were not considered. We are now trying to put some thought into this and we are hoping that at some point we will be reimbursed by SUNY.

Prof. Brendan Hennessey, Romance Languages, commented on the changes to the MAT course work in Romance Languages. Spanish is the most taught language in K through 12. Students will not benefit with a course reduction in college. As we move forward, we wish we had the opportunity to push back more on these changes. Prof. Hennessey hopes that the dialog remains open for changes that may be detrimental to students across New York State and Binghamton University.

Prof. Fernando Guzman thanked the Senate officers for their work this year. He also congratulated Prof. Sara Reiter on her Chancellor's Award.

## 6. New Business

### a. TAE Evaluation Update

Prof. Thomas Sinclair, Public Administration, and chair of the TAE Evaluation Committee, gave an update on this committee's work. The committee has been collecting data on how the TAE's have been administered, received TAE self studies in March, and held several interviews with faculty in March. The committee has decided to wait until the fall semester to administer a survey when faculty have more time to consider the questions. The report of the committee will be done by the middle of the Fall 2017 semester. Prof. Guzman thanked Prof. Sinclair for his work on this committee.

b. Faculty Bylaws

Prof. Guzman introduced the proposed changes to the Faculty Bylaws in Article I and VII which come to the Senate with the approval of the Bylaws Review Committee and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Our current Bylaws do not take clinical faculty in consideration. When FSEC met with the Deans of Pharmacy and the School of Nursing, it was felt that it was important to change the Bylaws to reflect clinical faculty.

Prof. Sandra Michael, Biological Sciences, and chair of Bylaws Review, explained that there are a lot of qualified academic rank faculty on campus who historically have not been part of our governance structure. Some clinical faculty are different in many ways. Clinical faculty in Pharmacy will be expected to teach, along with doing research and participating in service. This is different from other type of academic rank faculty.

After no more discussion, the proposed Bylaws were approved by a unanimous vote.

Prof. John Starks notified all senators that a Faculty Senate planning meeting will be held in September. If anyone has any agenda items, please notify Prof. Starks or any of the new Senate officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Present: Nancy Abashian, Serdar Atav, Christopher Bartlette, Anne Brady, Cassandra Bransford, Zu Yan Chen, Junghyun Cho, Leon Cosler, Marvin Diaz, Patricia DiLorenzo, Salvador Fajardo, Heather Fiumera, Benjamin Fordham, Arianna Gerstein, Thomas Goodheart, Joseph Graney, Fernando Guzman, Colleen Hailey, Christopher Hanes, Brendan Hennessey, Stephanie Hess, Sharon Holmes, Barry Jones, Jonathan Karp, Katja Kleinberg, Leslie Lander, Alistair Lees, Carl Lipo, Tongshu Ma, Tami Mann, Sandra Michael, Robert Micklus, Natalija Mijatovic, Carol Miles, Jay Newberry, Jose Morales-Collazo, Donald Nieman, Vladimir Nikulin, Titilayo Okoror, Neil Christian Pages, Carolyn Pierce, Sara Reiter, Pamela Smart, John Starks, Masatsugu Suzuki, Adrian Vasiu, Bogum Yoon, Hong Zhang

Excused: Rosemary Arrojo, Elizabeth Casteen, Kenneth Chiu, Cynthia Connine, Heather DeHaan, Carmen Ferradas, Mark Fowler, Robert Guay, Changhong Ke, Kristina Lambright, Hiroki Sayama, Jennifer Stoever, Harvey Stenger, Sara Wozniak

Absent: Laura Anderson, Anne Bailey, George Catalano, Manas Chatterji, Raul Jesus Cepin, Eric Cotts, Weiyang Dai, Nikolay Dimitrov, Leslie Gates, Leslie Heywood, James Jentsch, Hyeyoung Kang, Dennis Lasser, Richard Lee, Marla Mallette, Nagendra Nagarur, Richard Naslund, Maxim Pensky, Gregory Robinson, Ruth Van Dyke, Joseph Weil,