

MINUTES OF  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
November 17, 2015

The second Faculty Senate meeting of the 2015-2016 academic year was called to order by Prof. Guzman at 11:47 am.

- a. Minutes After no discussion, the minutes of the September 29, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.
  
- b. Obituary Notices Prof. Guzman notified the body that Distinguished Service Prof. Marilyn Gaddis Rose, Comparative Literature, and founder of Translation, Research, and Instruction Program (TRIP) passed away. Prof. Guzman asked for a moment of silence to remember our colleague. As is established practice, a note of condolence has been sent to the family on behalf of the Senate.
  
- c. New business
  - a. Congratulations to Prof. Elizabeth (Libby) Tucker, English, who was just promoted to Distinguished Service Professor.  

Prof. Sara Reiter, chair of EPPC, noted that the following three proposals have been approved by Graduate Council, EPPC, and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
  - b. TESOL MEd and M.A. – These are for two degrees for teaching English as a second language. One degree is for those who need the certification to teach K through 12 in New York State and the other degree is for those who do not need that certification.
  - c. Educational Theory and Practice Ph.D. – This is the addition of a research degree more in demand by our students.
  - d. Advanced Certificate on Community Schools – This proposal comes from CCPA with strong ties to the Graduate School of Education. This is a 15-credit online certificate for people working in the area of community schools.

After no discussion, these programs were approved by a vote of 57 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

d. Reports

- a. Pamela Smart, University Faculty Senator

Prof. Smart reported on the SUNY University Faculty Senate plenary meeting held in Buffalo in October. Ms. Sara Wozniak, Professional University Senator also attended. Diversity was the theme and a workshop was held by Carlos Medina, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Prof. Smart gave a synopsis of this workshop; details can be found on the SUNY University Faculty Senate website.

Chancellor Zimpher has adopted an Applied Learning Initiative in response to Governor Cuomo's proposal that as a graduation requirement, every SUNY student should have an element of applied learning as part of their undergraduate experience. Chancellor Zimpher has defined applied learning very broadly and leaves it up to each individual campus to determine their own requirements in relation to SUNY guidelines including whether or not to mandate applied learning. The SUNY Faculty Senate Executive Committee insists that this experience be overseen by teaching faculty. Guidelines are being developed and will be sent to campuses in November. In addition, every campus must undertake a study to assess the impact of the applied learning requirements. This feasibility study must be completed by June 2017.

A SUNY task force on social media has prepared a set of recommendations for the SUNY Board of Trustees that includes wording implying a uniform curriculum in which students address social media responsibilities.

There are significant concerns about the SUNY budget. A bill has been submitted requiring the State to cover mandated salary increases and other required cost increases. It was stressed the legislators need to hear from us on the importance of maintenance of effort legislation.

The goal of increasing student enrollment has put significant pressure on classroom space and difficulties in offering seats that would enable students to graduate on time.

The Chancellor observed that SUNY construction needs are evaluated along with bridges and other state infrastructure priorities. While SUNY is lobbying, the circumstances for significant capital development are not auspicious.

Two resolutions were passed during this plenary session.

*Resolution on Academic Freedom* – SUNY Faculty Senate urges each campus governance organization to have an open discussion on academic freedom and comprehensive review of all campus documents.

*Modification to Family Medical Leave policy* – SUNY Faculty Senate requests that SUNY System work with union representatives to address the implementation of family medical leave in a system-wide and uniform way, and to advocate for family medical leave that promotes retention of employees and increases morale while addressing issues of equity. This includes the ability to stop the tenure clock while on family leave.

The Research Symposium will be hosted by Cobleskill on April 15, 2016. Prof. Smart encourages faculty to direct students to this opportunity.

Prof Howard Brown, History said that the extent of the engagement between campus governance leaders and administration regarding experiential learning was of concern. Prof. Smart noted that at the SUNY-wide level, there were discussions and conferences on applied learning initiatives and this will be the theme of the next plenary. At the campus level, these are conversations that are being developed. Prof. Tom Sinclair, Public Administration, noted that we have had conversations regarding the implementation of the SUNY performance improvement plan. Development of plans was done over the summer and we were notified by President Stenger and Provost Nieman that SUNY Excels was going to be developed by the end of the summer. We were notified but did not have sufficient time to bring it to the Executive Committee or the full Senate. He also noted that academic freedom just came up at the plenary session so we have not had time to discuss this with administration. Prof. Sinclair said that the Executive Committee welcomes any comments on how we should proceed on these items.

b. Annual reports of 2014-2015 Faculty Senate standing committees and others

*ByLaws Review* (Prof. Reiter reported for Prof. Summerville) – The Bylaws Committee dealt with one issue in the Bylaws concerning the department chair rules relative to personnel cases.

*Intercollegiate Athletics* (Prof. Lewis) – IAC met two times last year. The committee heard reports on academic performance by athletics/team/semester. Student athletes' GPA's are in line with the rest of the student population. The committee followed up on other aspects

of athletics such as tracking of special admits, communication between admissions and athletics, and hosting home basketball games during the weekend before finals. No decisions were made relative to this, but it was generally supported by IAC. The student representatives on the IAC said that the break would be welcome during study time.

Relative to the basketball games during finals, Prof. Guzman, Mathematics, asked why we couldn't give the students a break after finals. Pat Elliott, Director of Athletics, was asked to expand on that idea. Mr. Elliott told us that this was a new proposed item about scheduling. NCAA requires that we schedule 29 games (16 of which are conference games) and we fill in the other 13 games. Our conference, America East, handles the scheduling of conference games; we handle non-conference game schedules. This has become a concern due to the way the exam schedule falls; exams this year begin on Wednesday and finish on Tuesday with a weekend in between. To get the minimum number of games would have required us having three games in the first week of December. Athletics Academic Support was concerned about a student's academic deliverables during this time period that may conflict with games. Mr. Elliott did note that it ended up we were able to work it out that we did not have to schedule games for that weekend during exams.

Prof. Guzman said it seems that final exams are playing a secondary role in lieu of final papers and professors moving final exams to the last week of classes. This seems to be one more step in weakening the final exam when it was said that it was problem having three basketball games during the first weeks of December when a student's academic requirements were important. Mr. Elliott answered that this was not the rationale; three games in one week would have been too much and in no way was saying that finals are not as important as other academic obligations during the first week of December.

Prof. Dennis Lasser, School of Management, finds it interesting that we are giving basketball/athletics a hard time because it diminishes exams. Why is Commencement before finals? Also, if these basketball games were home games, it would not take up as much time from studying.

*Committee on Committees* (Ms. Ward) – The Committee on Committees reports to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The committee meets as a group in April to fill vacancies for the upcoming year using the results of the interest survey. When other vacancies occur, they are mostly handled by Ms. Ward. In addition to filling Senate committees, this committee was asked to fill faculty slots on the University Calendar committee, Auxiliary Services committee, Intercollegiate Athletics Board, and excellence awards nominations committees. Regarding vacancies on Senate committees, EPPC and UCC have been a challenge this year.

*Faculty Athletics Representative* (Prof. Dionne) – Prof. Dionne has been in the role of Faculty Athletics Representative for a year. Last semester she concentrated on the role and responsibilities of the FAR. Another important role of the FAR is in the evaluation of compliance issues in relation to academic grades. This is being well taken care of in Athletics whose real emphasis is on student support services. Athletic advisors work with the student athletes and stress the importance of academics. This year Prof. Dionne will work more on the community and leadership levels of the athletes.

*Intercollegiate Athletics Board* (Mr. Elliott reported for Mr. Kane) – Mr. Elliott reviewed the report that had been submitted by Mr. Kane.

*Budget Review* (Prof. Jones) – Prof. Jones noted that the charge of the Budget Review Committee has changed from a decade before. The BRC used to review the budget before it went to SUNY for approval, but it does not function this way anymore. We are trying to find a better process.

- 1) The BRC is involved with the President and the Provost on the roadmap process. We see the roadmap proposals very early and have active conversations, provide our rankings, and are involved in the final selections.
- 2) Our area of focus for this year is the reporting process. We review the expenditure report on the breakdown between divisions and units. We are now reviewing 2014/15; it takes six months to get the report. This report is a snapshot; we are working on a five-year plan to speculate on what the next two years will look like (projection).
- 3) Enrollments are not being met in some areas, creating deficits. We did not do well last year particularly due to the state versus out-of-state students and also the number of graduate students.

Prof. Jones noted that us engaging on issues is important.

Prof. Ricardo Laremont, Political Science, asked why we can't have the disbursements report in real time. Prof. Jones noted that there is a variety of places where our money sits. About 5% are expenditures that trickle down through many areas (President/Provost/Dean/departments) and are hard to track. Michael McGoff can provide more details if Prof. Laremont wishes to discuss with him. Administration has been very open to our ideas. Prof. Laremont notes that for management purposes, we need disbursements in real time; why is this technologically impossible?

Pres. Harvey Stenger noted that it is difficult to plan for the future; we don't have input on the variables necessary to plan until we get the budget approved from SUNY. We don't get that information until late in the spring. It is very hard to plan, and this is not because we are not trying.

Prof. Sandra Michael, Biological Sciences – A portion of the budget is devoted to classic academic expenditures; has this shifted? Prof. Jones responded that several years ago SUNY did report the expenditures divided like this. The BRC does pay attention to the growth in Academic Affairs data. There has been significant growth on the academic side, due to the number of faculty and students, but there has been growth in staff, too. Growth is comparable for both. Before SUNY 2020, we did go through lean times; cuts then were significant. In recent years, both have been growing.

Pres. Stenger responded that his State of the University address booklet shows the growth of faculty and staff (staff highest increase, then faculty, then students). Provost Nieman notes that the roadmap process is tied to academic programs (example: Harpur Advising has increased to accommodate student growth).

Prof. Howard Brown, History stated that this disbursements report was first available in 2002. Some budget lines have moved (example: Vice President of Operations is different now). The All-Funds budget is important to develop. The All-Funds are dollars that are more than what the state appropriates to us. It is worth noting that we are now at the point that 24% of what is appropriated to us are tax dollars; the rest is tuition. Our tuition dollars are far greater than the legislature gives us. The effort on the part of New York State is failing to do anything to maintain this budget. It is noteworthy to know that all of our salary increases come out of money appropriated to us.

e. Current Events at Missouri, Ithaca, Yale

Prof. Guzman reviewed some of the events that have taken place at universities throughout the country in the last week or so.

At the University of Missouri, football players threatened to boycott games until the president resigned over racial tension and high-profile racial incidents. At Ithaca College, two white male alumni called a black alumna a "savage" and called for the president to resign over inadequate response to racist incidents. University of Kansas student leaders called for the resignation of the chancellor over inaction on diversity demands; a graduate student went on a hunger strike in solidarity with student demands. At Claremont McKenna College, the junior class president resigned over photos of Halloween costumes and the Dean of Students resigned over remarks about "students who don't fit the CMC mold." At Yale, a "white girls only" remark was heard at a fraternity house and students presented a list of demands on diversity and inclusion to the president.

On the positive side, Smith College students held a demonstration in solidarity with Ithaca and Missouri. University of Oklahoma expelled two fraternity members and initiated a five-hour diversity training for all freshmen students. Here at Binghamton, our students marched in solidarity with Missouri and Ithaca, President Stenger put out a message from the administration, and the Student Association Board called for working together with campus leaders and the administration to build something new and better.

Prof. Guzman posed a couple of questions:

- Should the Faculty Senate make a statement condemning the racial events at those schools mentioned above?
- Should we, as part of campus leadership, respond to the call by the Student Association Executive Board?
- Should we support the efforts of the administration to "create and sustain a campus that is welcoming and respectful of all persons"?
- Should we ask that more be done, and participate in doing it?

Prof. Ricardo Laremont, Political Science suggests that we should sit down with students to find out exactly what is going on. We do not know what tensions students are experiencing. We can then move in a positive direction after that. Language is very important; we need to create a community by faculty leadership where people feel comfortable. This is not just about expression of ideas; it is about community and about a place where young people come (we are their family). We can change the dynamic of what we are about. Prof. Laremont suggests we invite a student delegation to discuss creating that type of community.

Prof. Guzman said that some of us may not get input (or limited input). We would like to hear what others are hearing and seeing.

Prof. Christopher Hanes, Economics, feels we should in some way have some kind of investigation speaking to students about these issues to find out what the problems on the ground are.

Prof. John Starks, Classics and Arabic Studies said that some students who come to his department seem to be more affected. Some have been personally affected by events in

Delaware County. Students from Arabic speaking countries are extremely affected. Dialog about this is extremely critical.

Prof. Guzman, Mathematics, noted that at our September planning meeting, creation of a Faculty Senate Diversity Committee was discussed. We do not have this committee but we do know that other SUNY campuses do.

Prof. Pamela Mischen, Public Administration, suggested that perhaps we are not having dialog with our students, and if we are not, suggested that we should be talking to students in our classes or on a more personal level during office hours. She also added that it may be intimidating for some students to come address the entire Senate.

Prof. Benita Roth, Sociology noted that it is not just students who are being discriminated against. She supports the idea of a diversity committee. She also noted that there may be plenty of students who would address the Senate if we asked them.

Prof. Guzman asked Senators what we should do next. Prof. Leslie Gates, Sociology, made a motion that we form a diversity committee. This committee should be empowered by the Faculty Senate and explore conversations and hear from students. This motion was seconded.

Prof. Howard Brown, History, proposed that in order to constitute a diversity committee, nominations for committee members should be sent to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, who will then compose the committee. Faculty Senators, as well as all other faculty, should be invited to make nominations.

After no more discussion, the amendment to the motion was approved by a hand vote of 55 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions.

After no more discussion, the amended motion was approved by a hand vote of 55 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

- f. Evaluation of TAE Program -- Open conversation – This item has been tabled to the December 15 Senate meeting

After no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:58 pm.

Present: Manoj Agarwal, Benjamin Andrus, Rosemary Arrojo, Serdar Atav, Jeffrey Barker, Christopher Bartlette, Anne Brady, Cassandra Bransford, Howard Brown, Kenneth Chiu, Jung Hyun Cho, David Clark, Cynthia Connine, Carmen Ferradas, Leslie Gates, Brandon Gibb, Joseph Graney, Vincent Grenier, Fernando Guzman, Colleen Hailey, Christopher Hanes, Courtney Ignarri, Murali Jagannathan, Hyeyoung Kang, Jonathan Karp, Hoe Kyeung Kim, Ricardo Laremont, Dennis Lasser, Tongshu Ma, Marla Mallette, Sandra Michael, Robert Micklus, Natalija Mijatovic, Jay Newberry, Donald Nieman, Neil Christian Pages, Carolyn Pierce, Florenz Plassmann, Mark Poliks, Dmitry Ponomarev, Xingye Qiao, Sara Reiter, Joshua Reno, Benita Roth, Hiroki Sayama, Edward Shephard, Thomas Sinclair, Pamela Smart, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Masatsugu Suzuki, Cyma VanPetten, Adrian Vasiu, Sara Wozniak, Bogum Yoon, Lei Yu, Stephen Zahorian, Hong Zhang, Chaun Zhong

Excused: John Baust, Frank Cardullo, Scott Craver, Robert Guay, Leslie Heywood, Sharon Holmes, Omowunmi Sadik, Sandro Sticca, Lisa Tessman, Joseph Weil

Absent: Anne Bailey, Nicole Cameron, John Cheng, Heather DeHaan, Mikhail Filippov, Gretchen Mahler, Titilayo Okoror, Dillon Schade, Bruce White, David Wilson, Shengsheng Zhou