

MINUTES OF
FULL FACULTY SENATE MEETING
May 10, 2022

The fourth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2021-2022 academic year was called to order by Professor of Art and Design Natalija Mijatovic, Faculty Senate chair, at 11:45 a.m., via Zoom.

1. Minutes

Minutes from the March 29, 2022 meeting were approved.

2. Obituary Notices

Chair Mijatovic notified the body that Prof. Emeritus Sotirios "Sam" Chianis, Music, Dean Emeritus Upinder Dhillon, School of Management, and Assoc. Prof. Emerita Alice Mitchell, Music have passed away. Chair Mijatovic spoke briefly about each and then asked for a moment of silence to remember these colleagues.

3. New Business

a. Approval of degree candidates

4,063 graduates have filed an application for a degree (1082 graduate students; 2981 undergraduate students). A motion was made to approve. After no discussion, the list of degree candidates was approved by a unanimous vote of 35 in favor.

b. University Faculty Senate Resolutions

Professor Thomas Sinclair, University Faculty Senator reviewed the following resolutions that have been endorsed by the FSEC.

"Successful Implementation of the SUNY General Education Category, "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice"

This resolution requests SUNY to create a funding pool to hire faculty with expertise in this area.

"Advancement of Historically Underrepresented Faculty"

This resolution requests campuses to develop programs to support underrepresented faculty, such as mentoring assistance and incorporating DEI principles into policies for reappointment, continuing appointment, and promotion, in addition to raising awareness of the disadvantages that underrepresented faculty experience.

"Successful Implement of SUNY Health, Wellness and Well-Being Infrastructure and Leadership Architecture"

This resolution requests the implementation of a well-being infrastructure, including a network of wellness and chief wellness officers on all SUNY campuses and an assistant or associate dean of wellness on campuses. This resolution was brought forward by the health center campuses in the SUNY system and recognizes the increased need to support wellness activities on campuses.

Prof. Andrew Walkling, Theatre, asked about the distinction between physical health, mental health, and wellness, and whether there is a way to address those areas separately given the different kinds of concerns that are associated with each area.

Prof. Sinclair noted that the resolution speaks to the holistic nature of wellness which includes all aspects of health. The health, wellness, and well-being administrators that are anticipated to be hired would be looking holistically at health and wellness.

Prof. Jefferey Schertzer, Biological Sciences, commented on mentoring and making it available for all faculty. Prof. Sinclair noted that since the resolutions came from SUNY, we cannot amend them. He added that this is a system-wide initiative and a concern across campuses.

Prof. John Kuhn, English, General Literature and Rhetoric, asked about the first resolution discussed and if it affects Binghamton, and what is the funding mechanism. Prof. Sinclair noted that the resolution doesn't have any specificity attached to it. He added that this was advanced by smaller regional campuses rather than university centers that have more resources in place to be able to take on the general education role.

A motion was made and seconded to approve all three resolutions. After no further discussion, it was approved via virtual vote with 36 in favor, 2 oppositions, and 4 abstentions.

c. Gen Ed Task Force Report

Professor Sara Reiter, School of Management, provided a summary of the general education implementation plan to be approved by the Faculty Senate. She noted that the FSEC and Provost gave the joint task force the charge for implementation. She reviewed the highlights of the charge and recommendations which were detailed in the document provided. Lastly, she provided a summary of the current versus new general education curriculum.

Prof. Walkling expressed concern with the statement within the report that notes "a more robust assessment process will need to be implemented". He asked what a more robust assessment would look like and how it will affect faculty as we continue to struggle with added administrative duties and responsibilities. Vice Provost Loewen noted that we are looking for broader participation with an easier and slimmer process.

Chair Mijatovic asked what the timeframe is for the implementation. Vice Provost Loewen noted that the implementation will need to be completed by the 2023 fall semester. He added that the implementation will begin early this Fall.

Prof. Kuhn asked if the new tags have associated course caps with them. Vice Provost Loewen noted that they did not discuss caps. He added that it depended on the student outcomes and if it can be accomplished with larger courses.

Prof. John Starks, Middle Eastern, and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, noted that one of his colleagues asked if we were approving the full language of the task report today. He mentioned that under "world languages," the report will need to be made consistent and it should read as world languages instead of foreign languages in the guidance section. He also asked if we need to put an exception to English within that language

requirement. Prof. Reiter noted that the document does not exclude any of the guidance and we are asking the faculty senate to approve the SUNY learning outcomes, not the guidance language.

Prof. Richard Naslund, Geological Sciences and Environmental Studies added to Prof. Starks's comment, that if it is noted as just languages, this will leave us open to a broad interpretation.

Chair Mijatovic asked for clarification on whether we are approving a general education implementation plan and the new mandated learning outcomes when it comes to individual guidelines for each. Vice Provost Loewen noted that this is correct. He added that faculty governance is voting on the task force report as opposed to the comparison table.

Prof. Scott Craver, Electrical and Computer Engineering, clarified that what we need to do before this coming year is to allow the UUCC to go forward with the implementation of general education changes. The faculty governance is being asked to approve the report whose recommendations are the path forward that the UUCC can follow. Prof. Reiter added that we will also need to approve the learning outcomes.

Prof. Walkling noted on page 2, that the document states, "that in following the FSEC charge, the task force recommends the following". He added that since this is a recommendation, we can suggest that additions be made to the recommendation concerning the points that Prof. Starks has raised concerning the language on page 3.

After no further comments, Chair Mijatovic noted that the faculty senate will approve the general education implementation plan with the understanding that the campus implementation will be added to the section on world languages and also make sure English and Computer languages are not included in that category. Prof. Walkling moved to attach those recommendations discussed to the report.

A motion was made and seconded to approve these recommendations. After no further discussion, it was approved via virtual vote with 28 in favor, 2 oppositions, and no abstention.

A motion was then made to approve the general education implementation plan. After no further discussion, it was approved via virtual vote with 43 in favor, no opposition, and 2 abstentions.

4. Reports

Report from Prof. Scott Craver, chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Prof. Scott Craver reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) met weekly starting January 18 to the present date except for those weeks the Faculty Senate was in session and one week due to the snowstorm.

During the semester, the FSEC met with several administrators, including President Harvey Stenger, Provost Don Nieman, Vice Provost James Pitarresi, Vice Provost Don Loewen, and Harpur Dean Celia Klin, Assoc. Dean Nancy Um, CIO Niyazi Bodur, and Vice Provost Madhusudhan Govindaraju.

Later in the semester, the FSEC met with each of the candidates for the Provost search, Pharmacy Dean search, and SOM Dean search. The time spent with each search committee added up to an extra 13 hours of meeting time for the FSEC including meeting 14 times as a committee.

In terms of business, the FSEC provided feedback to the President and Provost regarding several policies, some of which include: the timeline for the changing mask policy, and policies on short-term and long-term student absences from class. The FSEC reviewed and endorsed the SUNY UFS resolutions with the appointment of members to the campus citizens review board selection panel so that they could review the application for new board members.

The FSEC met with the Professional Staff Senate Executive Board to discuss matters currently affecting staff and discuss ways that faculty governance and staff governance can increase communications and coordination. The FSEC met with Dean Klin and Nancy Um concerning the new school for the arts. The proposal for the art school will be brought forth to the faculty governance early this fall.

Lastly, Prof. Craver noted that a larger policy issue that we faced this semester included the SUNY-mandated changes in general education standards and our campus implementation plan. Prof. Craver noted that the FSEC created a task force to create faculty working groups to guarantee broader input and then review and approve the task force communication plan.

Chair Mijatovic thanked Prof. Craver for the great service that he has provided for the last two years.

Report from Prof. Thomas Sinclair, University Faculty Senator

Before Prof. Sinclair began his report, he thanked Prof. Craver who has worked through many challenging situations during this recent COVID year.

Prof. Sinclair reported that the spring University Faculty Senate plenary was held in April. At this plenary, there was an Interim Chancellor, Interim Provost, and Interim CFO. Due to this transition, there was not a lot of substance to discuss. The main point during the plenary was that SUNY did well in the state of New York's budget. It was recognized that there was additional assistance for faculty hiring, general operating, and significant assistance for the hospitals and medical centers that SUNY operates. There was an emphasis on Governor Hochul who had highlighted SUNY as a key driver of the economic revitalization of the New York State economy. She had several challenging new initiatives,

including raising the SUNY system's overall enrollment to 500,000 students. Currently, the enrollment is around 340,000 to 380,000 students.

Prof. Sinclair noted that the University Faculty Senate operations committee is looking at the expansion of administrators in the system. Concerning the diversity, equity, and inclusion PRODI-G program, the PRODI-G is being reworked again. There will be a continued effort to hire faculty from historically underrepresented groups.

Prof. Sinclair noted that this is his last meeting as University Faculty Senator. He discussed the importance of faculty governance and provided examples of where faculty governance has made a difference. He then provided examples of what we should be proud of about working at Binghamton, such as shared governance, faculty evaluations of senior administrators, a transparent budget process, and a strong presence of our elected faculty representatives on internal senior searches. In addition, he cited routine meetings with the President and Provost. He added that the increased communication between faculty and administrators has helped during crisis moments.

Lastly, he thanked this year's FSEC who approached their job seriously and represented all of our units very well. He urged members of the faculty senate to think about running for the University Faculty Senator. He added that an announcement went out this week that there will be an election and to also think about signing up to become a member of the Faculty Senate committees.

Chair Mijatovic thanked Prof. Sinclair for his years of service, commitment, and leadership.

Chair Mijatovic thanked outgoing Provost Nieman for his many years of great service, leadership, and working relationship with the faculty governance.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45.

Present: Serdar Atav, Jane Bear-Lehman, Aaron Beedle, Megan Benson, Kim Brimhall, Scott Craver, Jeremy B. Dibbell, Anthony Ephirim-Donkor, Alex J. Feingold, Jakob Feinig, Mark Fowler, Rodney Gabel, Ariana Gerstein, Neyda Gilman, Thomas Goodheart, Madhusudhan Govindaraju, Kevin M. Hatch, Norah F. Henry, Mattias Iser, Anja Karnein, John Kuhn, Wei-Cheng Lee, Alistair Lees, Cynthia Marasigan, Katherine Martineau, Richard E. Mattson, Robert Micklus, Natalija Mijatovic, Candace A. Mulcahy, Richard Naslund, Donald G. Nieman, Tomonari Nishikawa (*rep. for Kenneth White*), Chang Hee Park, Sara Reiter, Thomas Sinclair, John Starks, Elizabeth Tucker, Andrew Walkling, Michelle Withers, Wei Xiao, Harald Zils, John Zilvinskis

Excused: Subimal Chatterjee, Robert Holahan, Richard MacKenney, Harvey G. Stenger, Ozlem Tonguc, Thomas Wilson

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Absent: Nathanael Andrade, Anne Bailey, Frederick Bentley, Tracy Brooks, David Brown, Ana Maria Candela, Dina Danon, Nikolay Dimitrov, Salvador Fajardo, Nicole Fenty, Guy German, Robert E. Guay, Joel Harder, Anushree Karkhanis, Clarice Kelleher, Jonathan Krasno, Michael Lawler, Marcin Mazur, Ronald Miles, Ralph Miller, Vladimir Miscovic, Nagendra Nagarur, Kelvin Santiago Valles, Hiroki Sayama, Jeffrey W. Schertzer, Tarek Shamma, Timothy Singler, Antonio Sobejano-Moran, James Sobel, Lisa Tessman, Ruth VanDyke, Sarah Young, Lijun Yin, Zhongfei Zhang