

MINUTES OF  
FULL FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
December 6, 2022

The second 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 am in Old Union Hall.

1. Minutes

Minutes from the November 1, 2022 meeting were approved.

2. Obituary Notices

Chair Mijatovic notified the body that former Prof. Elfriede Heyer, German Studies, passed away. Chair Mijatovic asked for a moment of silence to remember our colleague.

3. New Business

a. Global Public Health proposals

Chair Mijatovic noted that the Global Public Health proposals were approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Prof. Titilayo Okoror, Africana Studies, noted that the Global Public Health proposals are a collaboration between the Africana Studies department and the Anthropology department. She then provided a brief background and summary of the development of the BA and BS proposals. Assoc. Dean Kathy Brunt, Academic Affairs and Advising, Prof. Kathy Wander, Anthropology, and Prof. Titilayo Okoror, Africana Studies were available for questions.

Prof. Alex Chase-Levenson, History, and Public Health expressed concern with the Humanities course requirements within the proposal.

Prof. Okoror explained the built-in flexibility and that the final checklist for students would include the Humanities course requirements.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Global Public Health program proposals. After no further discussion, the proposals were approved with 50 in favor, no opposition, and one abstention.

b. Binghamton Principles of Community

Chair Mijatovic noted that the statement of Binghamton Principles of Community was created by a joint Faculty Senate task force on classroom behavior. The statement was endorsed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

Prof. Scott Craver, Electrical and Computer Engineering, summarized and explained the Binghamton Principles of Community statement. He explained that the task force was created to address disruptive behavior in the classroom due to an incident on campus. The task force's purpose was to review all policies and procedures to ensure that they align with our values and how instructors handle disruptive behavior in the classroom. He noted that the statement was created to summarize the policy and include a shared set of values agreed upon by the campus community that can be used.

Chair Mijatovic asked if the statement would be placed on the website. Prof Craver noted that the information would be placed on the university website. He explained that it would be used as a standard set of values to apply when we examine our policies concerning disruptive behavior in the classroom.

Prof. Jeffrey Schertzer, Biological Sciences, commented on the statement being too vague. Prof. Craver noted that the document would be used as we examine the system policy.

Prof. Anton Schick, Mathematics and Statistics, noted typos, spacing, and language suggestions. Prof. Craver acknowledged the requests and noted that they would be corrected.

Prof. Sara Young, Social Work, asked if new students joining our community would be required to acknowledge or sign this document and if there are any rules. Prof. Craver noted that the current plan is asking the Faculty Senate for their approval of the statement and then bringing it forward to students for their approval. He added that it would not require a student's signature. Prof. Jon Krasno, Political Science and FSEC chair, explained that it is an aspiration statement that could guide us into further consideration.

Prof. Xingye Qiao, Mathematics and Statistics, commented on the last sentence of the statement, "all voices are encouraged", do we want to encourage all voices? He then suggested, "Harmful voices and voices that fuel violence."

Prof. John Zilvinskis, CCPA Student Affairs Administration, noted that the statement does not include the creators' names on the document. He then asked if they consulted with students of different backgrounds and what research was done before creating the statement. Prof. Craver noted that the document was written with the task force, Prof. Krasno, co-chair of the committee, and Karen Jones, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Prof. Krasno explained that the task force researched and reviewed other institutions' model statements. Each committee member contributed to the creation of this statement. Lastly, Prof. Craver noted that Karen Jones had initially identified that other universities have this statement and suggested the creation of this statement for Binghamton University.

Prof. Kenneth Chui, Computer Science, raised a concern about the word "bias" in the statement, as the word when unqualified can have multiple connotations.

Prof. Craver noted that as a public institution, we have legal requirements when respecting the constitutional types of speech. There are specific passages in the document that recognizes this. He then reviewed the section within the document.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the statement, including the language corrections and typos noted. After no further discussion, the statement was approved with 41 in favor, 6 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

c. University Faculty Senate Resolutions

Chair Mijatovic presented three UFS resolutions that need to be approved. The resolutions have already been endorsed by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The resolutions include; the Executive Budget, Statement on Iran, and SUNY SLSC's handling of college-held Perkins Loan payments and interest during the pandemic. Prof. Melissa Zinkin, UFS Senator, provided a summary of the resolutions and was available for questions.

Hiroki Sayama, System Science and Industrial Engineering, commented on the statement of Iran and asked if we had the authority to say or were legally restricted against saying that we as the university, should offer in-state tuition or remote positions to people from/in certain countries or regions. Prof. Zinkin noted that the senate agreed to "ask" the chancellor to do the following:

"Offering in-state tuition to our students from Iran, as has been done in the past for other groups of students affected by crises at home; and providing assistance as needed to students from throughout the region, particularly those of Kurdish descent."

She added that Binghamton University itself is not committing to doing this.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the three resolutions. After no further discussion, the resolutions were approved with 50 in favor, 1 opposed, and 2 abstentions.

Before moving on to the reports, Prof. Zinkin acknowledged the appointment of the new SUNY Chancellor, John King.

4. Reports

a. Report from President Harvey Stenger

President Stenger provided an update concerning the letter he sent to faculty and staff on December 1 that discussed the increase of shared services and educational opportunities between Binghamton University and SUNY Broome Community College. The cause of this partnership is the loss of enrollment at SUNY Broome. He added that Binghamton University is responsible to our community to use our strength and success to support and assist SUNY Broome.

He reviewed the process and timeline as it evolved, which consisted of sequential meetings with governing groups in June and July. In August and September, they analyzed other state universities in similar situations, to help develop a plan of action. Further conversations were held in October and November that included discussions with our Binghamton University Counsel, Professional Staff Senate Executive Committee, Faculty Governance Leaders, County Executive Jason Garner, County Chair and Legislature Dan Reynolds, State Assemblyman Donna Lupardo, Senator Fred Akshar, Chair of SUNY Trustees and the SUNY Interim Chancellor. All conversations shared strong support. On November 13, a draft concept document was submitted to SUNY central administration hoping that the new SUNY Chancellor, John King, would prioritize this. He added that he recently spoke with him to discuss their partnership plan. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled and then shared with the campus governance leaders.

President Stenger discussed the following partnership actions; using the admissions office to increase applicants to SUNY Broome, partnering with our administrative staff in similar divisions, and branding SUNY Broome as a part of Binghamton University.

President Stenger then discussed items he would like to avoid during this process which included:

- Avoid new legislation.
- Avoid anything happening to our foundation status for the research institution.
- Avoid employee or employment uncertainty.
- Avoid changing the separate campus labor unions.
- Avoid changing the governance of faculty, staff, or students.
- Avoid impacting our statistics that are submitted to ranking publications.
- Avoid impact our R1 status.
- Avoid requiring any university funding.
- Avoid negatively impacting our reputation.
- Avoid changes to our admissions standards.

President Stenger then discussed the following items that we are waiting for before moving forward:

- Receiving more precise feedback
- Preparing a budget for the transition costs, then request from SUNY and NYS
- Seeking input from Middle States accreditors
- Testing the expansion of our Binghamton Advantage Program
- Holding meetings between our leaders with the divisions and their counterparts at SUNY Broome
- Assessing and quantifying the costs of risks and benefits of partnership

President Stenger reviewed the following benefits of this partnership:

- Improve student outcomes
- Increase transfer population
- Cost efficiencies
- Community education obtained in our region
- Workforce training expansion
- Economic benefits to our region

President Stenger then noted the following potential risks involved with the partnership:

- Administrative time spent on the transition
- Potential financial short holes- dollars lost
- Employers representation
- Inability to reverse SUNY Broome's enrollment
- Impact on accreditation status

Lastly, he would continue to update the campus governance leaders. He would notify the campus governance body early to mid-spring '23 when he has more details of this partnership.

Prof. Craver commented on the Binghamton Advantage Program and agreements that give us an excellent cohort of transfer students coming into our departments every year and hopes to reserve that. President Stenger noted that it would be reserved and probably expanded on.

Prof. Matt Johnson, Psychology, asked what the campus governance leader's perspective was on the proposal. He then asked President Stenger to discuss the data that supports the success rate of the Binghamton Advantage Program. He also asked what the plan is for replacing President Kevin Drumm due to his retirement. President Stenger explained that he would continue to work with the campus governance leaders, and when we are in a good spot, he would bring it back to the Full Faculty Senate for comment and review in the spring. He would also get the data requested and statistics on the success rate of the Binghamton Advantage Program. Lastly, President Stenger confirmed that Kevin Drumm is retiring at the end of June. There is a search committee in place but currently on hold because they are waiting for a decision from the Board of Trustees.

Jon Krasno asked when the new chancellor would be able to discuss the proposal since he is not officially in the position yet and what the benefits are for the community and SUNY Broome. President Steger noted that John King, newly appointed chancellor, was enthusiastic and planned to work on this before officially in the position. He then discussed the benefits to the community and students and the boost in the local economy.

Chair Mijatovic asked how we define success when partnering with SUNY Broome and whether we could walk away if the partnership is not successful. President Stenger explained that there would be a trial period of three years to see if there is an increase in the enrollment of 600 full-time students. This would cover their return structural deficit. He added that if this doesn't happen within three years, we could walk away from the partnership.

President Stenger encouraged the faculty to contact him with any further questions.

b. Report from Prof. Jon Krasno, chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Prof. Krasno reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee met 13 times during the Fall semester of 2022. He shared three highlights from a series of meetings this semester.

First, the NYS government has committed to a substantial investment in the four university centers to raise their research profiles to a level more appropriate to those of leading state universities in a large or even medium-sized state. He noted that this commitment would require investments over a series of years, plus a substantial increase in the state's base-level funding. The first step has been taken this year, but the President and Provost separately outlined a series of steps that lay ahead.

Secondly, the FSEC devoted a substantial amount of time reviewing and discussing the proposal for a School of the Arts. The proposal was endorsed by the FSEC, then approved by the Faculty Senate with reservations at the Faculty Senate meeting on November 1, 2022. The reservations were shared with the appropriate authorities. Dean Klin agreed with one of the reservations regarding the amount of money attached to the director's office, which would be adjusted going forward.

Lastly, the FSEC committee created a joint task force on the Student Opinion of Teaching (SOOT) forms. The task force is charged with reviewing and examining our institution and other institutions' various methods of soliciting teaching evaluations and creating something that works here at Binghamton University. The task force will begin its work in the spring semester.

c. Report from Prof. Melissa Zinkin, University Faculty Senator

Prof. Melissa Zinkin, University Faculty Senator, provided a report on the University Faculty Senate Plenary meeting held at Purchase College on October 20. She reported on three discussion topics from the meeting; concerns with shared faculty governance, Humanities being underfunded, and issues with teaching through the pandemic. The concerns were shared with the Interim Chancellor. Prof. Zinkin added to let her know if there are any concerns she can bring back to the UFS plenary in January.

Lastly, Chair Mijatovic noted that if there are any questions or concerns from your department or area, let her know.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:55 pm.

Present: Michael Armstrong, Christina Balderrama-Durbin, Aaron Beedle, Megan Benson, David Bisaha, Christopher Bishop, Jeremy Blackburn, Kevin Boettcher, Peter Borgesen, Alex Chase-Levenson, Kenneth Chiu, Junghyun Cho, Weiyang Dai, Dina Danon, Anindya Debnath, Jeremy Dibbell, Patrick Doyle, Jakob Feinig, Rodney Gabel, Guy German, Ariana Gerstein, Donald Hall, John Havard, Brendan Hennessey, Nora Henry, Leslie Heywood, Douglas Holmes, Clarice Kelleher, Rebecca Kissling, Jonathan Krasno, Wei-Cheng Lee, Marcin Mazur, Tom McDonough, Robert Micklus, Natalija Mijatovic, Ralph Miller, Jason Moore, Luiza Moreira, Candace Mulcahy, Richard Naslund, Vladimir Nikulin, Titilayo Okoror, Julien Panetier, Chang Hee Park, Xingye Qiao, Jessie Reeder, Sara Reiter, Hiroki Sayama, Jeffrey Schertzer, Anton Schick, Bonggu Shim, James Sobel, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Ozlem Tonguc, Wei Xiao, Sarah Young, Ning Zhou, Harald Zils, John Zilvinskis, Melissa Zinkin

Excused: Manoj Agarwal, Jane Bear-Lehman, Zu-yan Chen, Neyda Gilman, Thomas Goodheart, Mattias Iser, BrieAnna Langlie, Richard MacKenney, Ravi Palat, S.B. Park, Olga Shvetsova, Thomas Sinclair, Kenneth White, Hong Zhang

Absent: Nancy Appelbaum, Kim Brimhall, Tracy Brooks, Nicole Cameron, Nicole Fenty, Murali Jagannathan, Paul McShee, Aritha Nirmal, Gurpreet Singh