

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2021

The second 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 11:47 am via Zoom.

1. Minutes

Minutes from the September 28, 2021 meeting were approved.

2. Obituary Notices

Chair Mijatovic notified the body that Prof. Emeritus John Vestal, Theatre; former Prof. William A. Pizante, Philosophy; and Prof. Emeritus Tsu Ming Wu, Physics, passed away. Chair Mijatovic asked for a moment of silence to remember our colleagues.

3. New Business

a. MFA Cinema – New Program Proposal

Chair Mijatovic reviewed the MFA Cinema new program proposal noting that this is the first MFA program being launched by one of our departments in many years. This proposal has been approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The Budget Review Committee has reviewed and approved the business plan as well. Prof. Tomonari Nishikawa, Cinema chair, was available for questions.

Prof. Sara Reiter reported that the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee was favorably impressed by the planning for diversity in the proposal.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal. After no discussion, it was approved with 42 in favor, 1 opposed, with no abstentions via a vote on zoom.

b. UFS 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 are; Executive Budget Resolution, Increased Flexibility in Telecommuting Policy and Work Plans, and Reiterating University Faculty Senate Commitment to Education about Racism and American History and in Support of the “AAUP Joint Statement on Legislative Efforts to Restrict Education about Racism and American History”. Prof. Sara Reiter, UFS Senator provided a summary of the resolutions and was available for questions.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the resolutions. After no discussion, it was approved with 43 in favor, 1 opposed, with 4 abstentions via a vote on zoom.

4. Reports

- a. Prof. Scott Craver, chair of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, reported on the activities of the FSEC for the fall semester. He began by noting that this was the first academic year without Laura O'Neil, which presented challenges for the FSEC. He added that the committee had crucial assistance from Darcy Fauci, Vicki Griffin, and then Kellie Hovancik who has recently taken on Laura's role. He reminded those who are chairing committees that Kellie has reached out to them during this semester and to be aware of those aspects of their committees that may have been initiated by Laura, including the annual reports that still need to be collected. The annual reports will be approved in the spring.

Prof. Craver noted that the FSEC began the semester by filling search committees for the Provost search and Pharmacy Dean search. The FSEC also filled several other vacancies, which include a new co-chair for the Campus Citizen Review Board and a vacancy for the Strategic Priority 4 (SP4) engagement for our roadmap.

Prof. Craver noted curricular items discussed by the FSEC, including the MFA Cinema proposal that was just approved and the TLEL Distance Ed programs.

Prof. Craver noted that the FSEC met with several administrators over the semester, including; James Pitarresi, Karen Jones, Don Loewen, Don Nieman, Gretchen Mahler, JoAnn Navarro, and Andrea MacArgel, PSS Chair. The FSEC also met with representatives from Professional Staff Senate to discuss issues that affect staff, including COVID duty assignments, SUNY telecommuting policy, and endorsing the SUNY FS Resolution to see greater flexibility in and expansion of the telecommuting policy.

Prof. Craver noted policies that the FSEC discussed over the semester that include: faculty senate policies for searches including external and internal searches and interim appointments by administrators. FSEC plans to review all policies to see if they need to be strengthened and/or clarified.

The FSEC appointed members of a new task force to address disruptive behavior in the classroom. This task force was proposed last spring semester in response to an incident on campus. This task force will include four members chosen by the FSEC and four members chosen by the Provost. The task force will review issues ranging from student code of conduct, communication of policies to faculty, and relevant legal issues.

Finally, the FSEC met with Vice Provost Loewen and Provost Nieman along with representatives from the UUCC to discuss the SUNY Gen Ed Implementation. Items discussed included identifying which courses satisfy the Gen Ed requirements but also ensuring that the new Gen Ed Implementation does not result in additional course requirements for students. Starting in the spring semester, they will assemble a task force to ensure that this implementation goes smoothly.

b. Prof. Tom Sinclair, University Faculty Senator provided a report on the University Faculty Senate Plenary meeting that was held on October 7, 2021, online. He reported that SUNY is under a lot of stress with the current academic climate. He noted two concerns from the plenary meeting that are putting stress on the system which include the implementation of the COVID vaccination requirements for students, staff, and faculty and declining enrollment. He noted that the Chancellor focused on two initiatives which include: continuing to expand online programming and focusing on students who never completed their degree. He added that the Chancellor's main focus was encouraging Faculty Senate and campuses to be thinking about higher education differently. There was also discussion on technology, the system-wide conversion from different kinds of learning management systems to Brightspace.

Prof. Sinclair discussed the general education framework, noting that the faculty governance was deeply involved in the development and these have been passed by the board of trustees at the November meeting. He added that the campus will be tasked with aligning our general education requirements with the framework.

Finally, Prof. Sinclair noted that the Faculty Senate Executive board at the system level is very engaged with the unfortunate controversy regarding the comments made by the Chancellor back in 2019.

After no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Present: Serdar Atav, Jane Bear-Lehman, Aaron Beedle, Megan Benson, Kim Brimhall, Scott Craver, Jeremy B. Dibbell, Alex J. Feingold, Jakob Feinig, Nicole Fenty, Guy German, Ariana Gerstein, Neyda Gilman, Thomas Goodheart, Madhusudhan Govindaraju, Robert E. Guay, Kevin M. Hatch, Norah F. Henry, Anushree Karkhanis, Jonathan Krasno, Wei-Cheng Lee, Alistair Lees, Cynthia Marasigan, Richard E. Mattson, Robert Micklus, Natalija Mijatovic, Ralph Miller, Candace A. Mulcahy, Donald G. Nieman, Chang Hee Park, Sara Reiter, Hiroki Sayama, Jeffrey W. Schertzer, Thomas Sinclair, James Sobel, John Starks, Harvey G. Stenger, Ozlem Tonguc, Elizabeth Tucker, Andrew Walkling, Kenneth A. White, Michelle Withers, Wei Xiao, Sarah Young, John Zilvinskis

Excused: Dina Danon, Anthony Ephirim-Donkor, Dikran Karagueuzian, Richard MacKenney, Richard Naslund, Thomas Wilson

Absent: Nathanael Andrade, Frederick Bentley, Tracy Brooks, David Brown, Ana Maria Candela, Subimal Chatterjee, Nikolay Dimitrov, Salvador Fajardo, Mark Fowler, Rodney Gabel, Joel Harder, Robert Holahan, Mattias Iser, Anja Karnein, Clarice Kelleher, John Kuhn, Michael Lawler, Marcin Mazur, Katherine Martineau, Ronald Miles, Vladimir Miscovic, Kevin Santiago Valles, Tarek Shamma, Timothy Singler, Antonio Sobejano-Moran, Lisa Tessman, Ruth VanDyke, Lijun Yin, Zhongfei Zhang, Harald Zils