

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 9, 2021

Associate Librarian Jill Dixon, University Libraries, called the Full Faculty meeting being held via Zoom to order at 11:46 am. She welcomed President Harvey G. Stenger and turned the meeting over to him.

President Stenger began his report to the Full Faculty meeting attendees. Presentation can be found at <https://www.binghamton.edu/faculty-senate/docs/stenger-presentation-march2021.pdf>.

Presidential Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow Kuwana Dyer-Pietras, Geological Sciences and Environmental Studies, asked if we would be able to bring any students into any post doc program in the fall. Provost Nieman noted that last year was the last year for the presidential post doc program with the initiation of the PRODiG program by SUNY. We are not currently recruiting for the presidential post doc program. This was a very successful program so if we can get past these differences, it will be restarted.

Prof. Liz Rosenberg, English, noted that we might want to consider using the chat section during our Zoom meetings; it will allow faculty to put forward their thoughts.

Prof. Rosenberg asked what our total positive rate has been since our opening. President Stenger said our 14-day rolling average is now at 2.74%. Prof. Rosenberg reiterated her question that she wanted to know how many active COVID-19 cases we have seen since we started the semester. President Stenger responded that we have seen 709 positive cases which includes 23 faculty and staff. Prof. Rosenberg then asked if President Stenger agreed with the 5% parameter that Governor Cuomo put in place. And if not, what is his plan? President Stenger answered that it is difficult to manage space for students who need quarantining and isolation. We are getting students isolated as fast as possible which is important to slow the spread. The majority of the positive students are asymptomatic. We are finding however that some students are going to Health Services with symptoms. President Stenger did note that he felt that in-person classes are effective.

Prof. Aaron Beedle, Pharmacy, commented that with the disruption of K-12 education, it may quite likely be that our incoming freshmen may not be at the high academic level that we normally expect. What is our plan to make them successful? President Stenger said that we have no plan for remediation for students coming in next year, but he does agree that they may be a little less sharp than we normally see. We are assuming that all first year students will be behind, and we do worry about our ability to select the right students (with less information and no testing). Interim Dean Celia Klin noted that Harpur is looking at non-credit bearing workshops during the summer to help with this. We also know that the Center for Learning and Teaching is addressing this also.

Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusiveness Daryl Santos, Academic Affairs, noted that our initiation of the presidential post-doc program was funded 50% by us and 50% by SUNY. SUNY system only granted one-third of our requests and then cut our funding. We are not in a position to continue it right now, but we are committed financially.

Prof. Peter Gerhardstein, Psychology, noted that in the fourth full week of the semester, it seems as if students are panicking and they need help with academic advising and their mental health. How much are we prepared to do as we move into the rest of the semester? Johann Fiore Conte, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Chief Health and Wellness Officer, responded that this is on their radar with the Counseling Center offering in-person and

virtual services. Counseling services for students last semester dropped to 70% of their normal demand. They are watching this carefully and can pivot as needed. Prof. Kimberly Jausi noted that the Collegiate Professors are also trying to support and engage students, especially those who are struggling.

Prof. Richard Naslund, Geological Sciences and Environmental Studies, asked if there has been any thought about requiring vaccinations for incoming students and all students. President Stenger answered that the SUNY presidents are discussing this now but we cannot mandate that as the vaccine is only for emergency use now. By mid-summer Pfizer will be fully authorized so it could be part of our requirement but it'd be a state requirement (not just ours).

Prof. Fernando Guzman, Mathematics, noted that the post docs lost funding from SUNY due to PRODiG but PRODiG does not replace the post doc program. We hope that when things get better, we will have a way to revive the post doc program as it has been very successful. President Stenger agreed that it is hard to find good candidates to hire and the post doc program was a good way to reach out to students and move to a tenure track position. This will be a high priority.

Ms. Lindsay Buchta, Systems Science and Industrial Engineering, asked if the faculty and staff who are not coming to campus and working from home are included in the reported positive numbers. President Stenger responded that we are not testing employees who are working from home.

Assistant Vice President for Student Success Kelli Smith encouraged faculty to suggest students take advantage of our success coaching support and workshops which is new this year. <https://www.binghamton.edu/offices/success/success-coaching/index.html>

After no questions, the Full Faculty meeting was adjourned.

The fourth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year was called to order by Chair Jill Dixon at 12:35 pm.

1. Minutes

Minutes from December 8, 2020 meeting were approved.

2. Obituary Notices

Chair Dixon notified the body that Distinguished Service Prof. Emeritus Henry B. Lincoln, Music; former Dean of Decker School of Nursing Joyce Ferrario; former Dean of Harpur College David Gitlitz; Prof. Emeritus Melvin Leiman, Economics; Prof. Emeritus Neville Dyson-Hudson, Anthropology; Prof. Alphonse Holtmann, Economics; Prof. Emeritus Charles Bischoff, Economics; and Distinguished Prof. Emeritus Saul Levin, Classical and Near Eastern Studies passed away. Chair Dixon asked for a moment of silence to remember these colleagues.

3. Curriculum

a. Doctor of Physical Therapy

Chair Dixon noted that this has been approved by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC).

Prof. Sara Reiter, chair of Diversity Committee, said that the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee recognizes that the new program proposals for the degrees of Doctor of Physical Therapy and Doctor of Occupational Therapy express intentions to enhance the diversity of students and faculty in these professions which currently do not have a very diverse composition. Implementing this commitment will be challenging, but Decker College is developing solutions such as holistic admissions, mentoring programs, and pipeline programs which may allow for progress in bringing in and retaining students and faculty from underrepresented groups.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. After no more discussion, a virtual vote was taken. This was approved with 62 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstentions.

b. Doctor of Occupational Therapy

This program proposal has also been approved by FSEC.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program. After no more discussion, a virtual vote was taken. This was approved with 60 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstentions.

a. New Business

a. Faculty Bylaws changes – These changes were proposed by the Faculty Senate Bylaws Review Committee and approved by FSEC. The changes recommended were due to name changes and reappropriating seats on committees with the dissolution of Graduate School of Education.

Motion was made and seconded to approve. After no more discussion, a virtual vote was taken. This was approved with 62 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstentions.

b. Community Engaged Scholarship – Additions to *Procedures for Personnel Cases*

An ad-hoc committee was formed; it established the changed language. This was approved by FSEC.

Prof. Sara Reiter, chair of the Faculty Senate Diversity Committee, noted that the Diversity Committee supports the changes in the tenure and promotion guidelines to emphasize the importance of community engaged scholarship because community engaged scholarship and teaching are valuable in their own rights and because they are an important facet of improving retention of minoritized faculty.

A motion was made and seconded to approve. After no more discussion, a virtual vote was taken. This was approved with 59 in favor, 2 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

5. Summary of Annual Reports 2019-2020 Faculty Senate standing committees

Chair Jill Dixon thanked committee chairs and members for their hard work during the 2019-2020 academic year particularly since it was a very challenging time. A considerable amount of Faculty Senate work is conducted by the committees. Chair Dixon asked faculty to consider serving on a committee if asked to serve.

The committee reports provide details and can be found in the Senate meeting agenda. Committee charges can be found on the Faculty Senate website. Chair Dixon presented a summary of all the reports.

Bylaws Review submitted by Chair Randy Scholtz – The committee reviewed and provided recommendation “Guidance for a Clinical Faculty Member to Become a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor” for Pharmacy School.

Convocations submitted by Co-chairs Alecia Huber and Jennifer Keegin – The committee provides funding for programs to enhance intellectual, cultural, and artistic aspects of academic curriculum. 14 programs were given funding, including speakers for conferences and cultural event support. Several programs moved online and one was cancelled due to COVID-19. The committee report has details of which programs were supported.

Diversity Committee -- The report pays tribute to the lasting legacy of the Chair Lubna Chaudhry and acknowledges the hard work of the committee members.

EOP Advisory submitted by Co-Chairs Nancy Abashian and Denise Yull -- The committee focused on EOP Advocacy Day, increasing buy-in for EOP student recognition, identifying areas for strengthening connections between current students and program alumni, and developing plans for outreach to academic departments. The pandemic raised new challenges for EOP students so the committee shifted focus to support online learning, triaging gaps in technology, improving access to campus resources, and long-range planning for incoming freshman students. The committee report also includes the EOP Director report with program details and statistics about the program.

Educational Policy and Priorities submitted by Chair Sara Reiter -- The committee meets to consider curricular issues and related policies. It reviewed 19 revisions to BA and BS programs, three re-registration of masters programs, expansion of two programs into distance learning, several combined degree programs, new master programs, deactivations, and Watson School to Watson College. Policy reviews included communication with departments regarding graduate level curriculum proposals still under discussion, timeframe for reviewing graduate program proposals, 4+1 proposals approval, and approved proposal for micro-credentials. A program to track graduate curriculum proposals is being developed.

Evaluation Coordination Committee submitted by Chair Neyda Gilman -- The committee coordinated six evaluations for President Harvey Stenger, Provost Don Nieman, Vice President for Research Bahgat Sammakia, Director of Athletics Patrick Elliot, Dean of

Decker College Mario Ortiz, and Vice Provost for Online and Innovative Education James Pitarresi.

Intercollegiate Athletics submitted by Chair Loretta Mason-Williams -- The committee discussed ensuring that student athletes are provided equitable educational opportunities as their peers and reviewed the most recent Athletics Academic Summary Report – noting the new high GPA set during that semester of 3.29 by student athletes. The committee also was provided updates of canceled spring semester due to COVID-19 and its budget impact as well as potential changes for Fall 2020 and NCAA rules regarding transfers.

Library submitted by Chair Sol Polachek -- The committee discussed the Libraries' Alma implementation, Bartle Library renovations, offsite storage facility, Newcomb Reading Room repurposing and resulting space deficiencies, Elsevier ScienceDirect contract renewal, and COVID-19 impact on the Libraries' services and budget.

Professional Standards submitted by Chair Robert Guay -- The committee had one case involving allegations of unprofessional conduct by a faculty member. After conducting interviews and holding several deliberative meetings, the committee concluded the case and sent a letter to the faculty member and their department chair.

University Undergraduate Curriculum submitted by Leslie Lander -- The committee continued its routine work of approving university-wide courses, certifying courses that met Gen Ed requirements, and deciding on student petitions about Gen Ed requirements. The committee also assessed Gen Ed categories via survey for Aesthetics (A), Humanities (H) and Social Science (N) in the fall 2019. Assessment was interrupted in spring 2020 due to the pandemic with agreement it would continue in 2020-2021. The committee compiled reports for Composition, Foreign Language and Laboratory Science. A proposal to allow O courses to go online was approved by FSEC; ironically, all went online in spring 2020 due to COVID-19.

Faculty Athletics Representative submitted by Nadine Mastroleo -- The key role for the FAR is to verify student eligibility for athletic participation and financial aid, monitoring academic performance for student athletes, and participation in compliance program. The majority (99.9%) of BU student athletes were eligible, and BU students posted a record-high 3.29 average GPA.

Academic Computing and Educational Technology submitted by Chair Don Loewen -- Since Blackboard's contract was due to expire, the committee conducted a lengthy review process to explore alternatives and chose Brightspace's Desire2Learn as the next Learning Management System. The Learning Management System Pilot Committee Report was provided as a supplement report. The committee also discussed SUNY's Accessibility recommendations, student response systems, and the COVID-19 response on the transition to online learning.

Committee for the University Environment submitted by Chair George Homsy -- The committee is charged with providing recommendations and oversight of any aspect of the campus that impacts the quality of the environment. They discussed a variety of projects, including the deer management plan, reducing bird and window collisions, tree identification

and interpretation, University energy planning, University climate plan, and transportation and parking initiatives.

Committee on Committees submitted by Chair Stephanie Hess -- The committee filled vacancies for Senate committees. There is a concern for increasing and diversifying participation across programs, departments, and colleges in committees. The committee is interested in developing a mentorship pipeline for those interested in serving and methods for providing newer faculty opportunities to participate in University service.

Chair Dixon noted that two committee reports – Budget Review and University Calendar – will be presented at a future Senate meeting.

Ms. Stephanie Hess, Committee on Committees chair, thanked her committee for helping to fill committees.

Motion was made and seconded to approve receipt of the annual reports and were approved via a virtual vote of 60 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions.

Prof. Alex Feingold, Mathematics, reminded faculty of a special virtual lecture event on March 12 by Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Ken Ono. Link can be found here:
http://www2.math.binghamton.edu/p/news/2021/0204_phi_beta_kappa_visiting_scholar_ken_ono_mar_11-12_2021

After no more business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Present: Seden Akcinaroglu, Jeffner Allen, Laura Anderson, Nathanael Andrade, Allan Arkush, Michael Armstrong, Serdar Atav, Aaron Beedle, Kimberly Brimhall, Stephen Capobianco, Paul Chairot, Leon Cosler, Scott Craver, Sidney Dement, Marilyn Desmond, Jill Dixon, Patrick Doyle, Anthony Ephirim-Donkor, Alex Feingold, Mark Fowler, Rodney Gabel, Guy German, Jeroen Gerrits, Neyda Gilman, Jennifer Gordon, Madhusudhan Govindaraju, Kevin Hatch, Robert Holahan, Kimberly Jaussi, Anja Karanein, Clarice Kelleher, Blazo Kovacevic, BriaAnna Langlie, Alistair Lees, Cynthia Marasigan, Richard Mattson, Natalija Mijatovic, Ralph Miller, Nagendar Nagarur, Richard Naslund, Donald Nieman, Sara Reiter, Paul Schleuse, Andrew Scholtz, David Schuster, Thomas Sinclair, John Starks, Harvey Stenger, Elizabeth Tucker, Andrew Walkling, Bruce White, Thomas Wilson, Wei Xiao, Sarah Young, Yan Zhang John Zilvinskis

Absent: Nancy Applebaum, Anne Bailey, John Baust, Christopher Bishop, Yulia Bosworth, Ana Maria Candela, Hwan-Sik Choi, Sung Chung, Leon Ciu, Lois Einhorn, Salvador Fajardo, Nicole Fenty, Thomas Glave, Christopher Hanes, Khaleel James, Dikran Karagueuzian, Anushree Karkhanis, Jonathan Krasno, Michael Lawler, Katherine Martineau, Ronald Miles, Kirsten Prior, Joshua Reno, Myra Sabir, Kevin Santiago Valles, Antonio Sobejano-Moran, Michelle Withers, Lijun Yin, Zhongfei Zhang