

MINUTES OF  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
May 18, 2021

The sixth Faculty Senate meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year was called to order by Assoc. Librarian Jill Dixon, Faculty Senate chair, at 11:47 am via Zoom.

1. Minutes

Minutes from April 27, 2021 meeting were approved.

2. Election of 2021-2022 Faculty Senate officers

The Nominating Committee of the Faculty Senate presented the following slate of nominees:

- Chair -- Natalija Mijatovic, Art and Design
- Vice Chair -- Jonathan Krasno, Political Science
- Secretary – Andrew Walkling, Theatre

No additional nominations were received. The slate was approved unanimously with 47 in favor. Future chair Prof. Mijatovic reported that she was humbled to be elected to this body for which she has the utmost respect.

3. Approval of degree candidates

5,709 graduates have filed an application for degree (1,701 graduate students; 4,008 undergraduate students). Motion was made to approve. After no discussion, the list was approved by a unanimous vote of 53 in favor.

4. Curriculum

a. Translation Research and Instruction Program (TRIP) MA

Prof. Andrew Walkling, Theatre, asked if the certificate element would continue. Prof. Sara Reiter, School of Management, responded that this does not cover the same ground as the certificate program. Motion is to approve this program. After no discussion, it was approved via a vote on Zoom with 52 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

b. Speech and Language Pathology MS

Motion is to approve this program. After no discussion, it was approved via a vote on Zoom with 53 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

5. New Business

a. Faculty Bylaws changes

This change to Amendment VIII allows for name changes to units and titles that had been approved through approved processes. This would require FSEC approval to be sure that there is a review process before approval.

Prof. Andrew Scholtz, Classical and Near Eastern Studies and chair of the Bylaws Review Committee, asked if we could change the word "Exception" to "Exceptions". It was agreed that this minor change did not require a motion.

Prof. Robert Holahan, Political Science, asked why we were making this change. Are we giving away authority? Chair Dixon said that this is for items such as unit names and titles that had already been approved.

Prof. Scholtz commented that this was a question in all committee discussions. One consideration is that the committee felt that they did not want to make this very open ended (no “backdoor” changes). This is to expedite incorporating facts accomplished into the language of the Bylaws. There is a similar type of provision in the US Congress (house “unanimous consent” procedure). We assume we will be looking at these types of changes in the future, particularly in the school name changes, so it was felt that in this case doing amendments for each would be very time consuming.

Prof. Holahan asked about title changes and noted his concern. Prof. Scholtz noted that the Faculty Senate does not have authority in title changes. Provost Nieman also agreed that these types of title changes do not require faculty approval. Prof. Reiter pointed out that when a school name change is made, it would not be a costless procedure to get approvals from all voting faculty. Titles are referenced in our Bylaws so if there are any title changes, we want the references in the Bylaws to be accurate and correct.

Prof. Scholtz added that we are building into our bylaws an algorithm to allow us to make these changes. Provost Nieman noted that, for example when the Pharmacy School was formed, it was approved through FSEC, FS, SUNY, and State Education Department, which created the school. We do not allow Faculty Senate to not approve these types of things.

Prof. Holahan commented that he was not comfortable with title changes. Prof. Reiter noted that this was just to reflect title changes that had already been approved by administration. Faculty Senate does not have the power to approve or disapprove the university structure and there is no provision for faculty to oversee administrative structure.

Prof. Scholtz notes that this is not to approve the name changes administratively; it is to approve changes so our Faculty Bylaws are kept up to date. Prof. Scott Craver, chair of Faculty Senate Executive Committee, clarified that these changes do not empower the FSEC to make any sorts of changes to actual titles. When a title has been changed, it allows the Bylaws Review Committee and the FSEC to change these titles wherever they appear in the Faculty Bylaws. These titles would have already been approved elsewhere by appropriate processes. He noted that the Bylaws Review Committee was very careful to be sure that what may be considered “cosmetic changes” are accurate. This amendment is narrowly and carefully defined so an update to the Bylaws are only allowed in these two cases and only if these have been changed by authorized processes. Prof. Scholtz did note that Prof. Holahan’s concerns are valid. This concern is addressed in the sentence in the amendment “through authorized processes”.

After no more discussion, the motion is to approve the Faculty Bylaws changes to Article VIII was put to a vote via Zoom. It was approved with 44 approved, 3 opposed, and 6 abstentions.

b. Information and Educational Technology Committee

This is a proposed change in the name of the ACET committee to Information and Educational Technology Committee. A change in the charge and composition is also being proposed. These changes have been approved by the current ACET and FSEC.

After no discussion, the motion to approve the changes from ACET to Information and Educational Technology committee was put to a vote via Zoom. It was approved with 50 approved and 2 abstentions.

6. Reports

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

Prof. Scott Craver reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) met weekly starting January 26, with the exception of April 20 that was rejuvenation day.

FSEC's work to fill vacancies on committees was less time-consuming in the spring semester than it was in the fall, but we appointed faculty to several key committees -- Graduate Dean search committee, the new roadmap committee for strategic priority 6 (internationalization) and a resulting vacancy on the committee for strategic priority 4 (engagement).

The FSEC discussed several curricular items this semester. The major items were:

- Translation Research and Instruction Program (TRIP) MA
- Speech and Language Pathology MS
- Doctorate of Occupational Therapy
- Doctorate of Physical Therapy
- The Decker RN to BS program Bylaws changes

The FSEC approved modifications to the Faculty Bylaws that permit minor corrections or updates to the names of schools or units, or to the titles of administrative positions, when those have been approved. The committee also approved changes to several committees -- Budget Review Committee, Educational Policies and Procedures Committee (now named the Program Review Committee), University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, and Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research which is now established in the bylaws as a new joint committee. In addition, the FSEC approved changes to the charge for ACET, the Academic Computing and Educational Technology committee, now named the Information and Educational Technology Committee, described in more detail below.

Other subjects discussed this semester included:

- The university's pandemic response and the effectiveness of quarantine and isolation housing
- Revision of Graduate School bylaws
- The upcoming roll-out of the Brightspace course management system
- Anticipated challenges for incoming students such as scholastic preparedness, owing to the COVID situation and its impacts on K-12 education
- Possible SUNY policies for "credit by evaluation," and how they may impact Binghamton University

- The impact of the cyber-attack and related ITS issues.

On the last issue, the FSEC conducted a survey of the faculty to gauge the extent of the cyber-attack and the impact of other matters such as the adoption of two-factor authentication. Based on the results of the survey, the FSEC provided a list of recommendations to improve communication and faculty coordination with ITS. This includes the adaptation of a computing committee, the Academic Computing and Educational Technology committee, to advise ITS on IT policy, and to solicit feedback from the campus community on proposed changes in IT policy.

This spring we met with President Stenger and Provost Don Nieman; Don Loewen, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and Enrollment Management; Brian Rose, Vice President for Student Affairs; Dean Hari Srihari of the Watson College; JoAnn Navarro, Vice President for Operations; Paula Russell, Senior Director and Andrea Macargel, Director of Instructional Design Services from the Center for Learning and Teaching; and Chief Information Officer Niyazi Bodur.

Finally, the FSEC approved a SUNY-level University Faculty Senate resolution in support of Black Lives Matter, and authored and approved additions to the Procedures for Personnel Cases to include recognition of community-engaged research.

- b. Report from Prof. Thomas Sinclair, University Faculty Senator  
Prof. Sinclair reported that the spring University Faculty Senate plenary was held remotely on April 22-24. It was the last plenary session for President Gwen Kay from SUNY Otsego who has held the office for four years.

As is customary during spring plenaries, reporting on the State of New York budget was an important theme. Among the highlights, the base budget of state assistance is down only five percent this year with no further reduction next year. Given the uncertainty caused by the pandemic, SUNY leaders counted this as a win. Additionally, SUNY won a commitment to reduce the Tuition Assistance Program gap (the difference between what the state pays and the actual tuition charges by campuses which campuses had to pay) by \$500 and eliminate it by 2024-25. Additionally, EOP and Educational Opportunity Centers both saw their funding increase 20%. The state budget for SUNY also increased overall mental health program assistance from \$500,000 to \$1 million. However, there was no relief for the Excelsior gap where assistance has not been increased about the 2017-18 levels. Tuition was frozen and there was no commitment to maintaining maintenance of effort.

With no input from faculty governance, SUNY has selected a new Learning Management System beginning in September 2022. Blackboard is out but the new system-wide LMS hasn't been announced during negotiations. However, it's a good bet that Binghamton's new LMS is a harbinger of where the SUNY contract will go. An implementation and transition team will be formed and hopefully faculty will have a voice on that activity. Provost-in-charge Shahedipour Sandvik reported on a two-year task force (EXPLOD) whose intent is to expand scalable online learning and to establish a process for accessing new online technologies. SUNY is still clearly committed to expanding its system-wide online access.

PRODI-G is a SUNY initiative to increase the diversity of its tenure track faculty. The second round of PRODI-G hires have been completed with 72 faculty lines hired in 2020-21 bringing the two year total to 149 faculty at 31 campuses. Next year, the funding formula will be reversed with campuses receiving 30% of the salary of their PRODi-G hires in year one, 50% in year two and 100% in year three.

SUNY is nearing the end of a multiyear process to revamp its general education programming. A white paper was issued: [http://www.sunyufs.us/uploads/1/1/6/9/116933050/suny\\_gen\\_ed\\_white\\_paper.pdf](http://www.sunyufs.us/uploads/1/1/6/9/116933050/suny_gen_ed_white_paper.pdf) and a green paper was issued in 2019. SUNY issued its General Education plan in March and interested parties had until yesterday to submit comments. The plan calls for new general education requirements to be implemented by the fall of 2022.

According to Chancellor Malatras, the plan right now is for campuses to be as in-person as possible. The Chancellor reported that there is an open question about whether mandating a Covid vaccine is legal because right now they are authorized for emergency use only. Rutgers is being sued for mandating a vaccination. The goal right now is to get as many students vaccinated as possible.

The following resolutions were reviewed:

OP/GOV: "188-01-1 Implementation of 360 Reviews for SUNY's Management/Confidential (M/C) Employees"

This resolution requests that the Chancellor direct campuses to implement 360 reviews of M/C employees, the cycle of reviews is accessible to campuses, and that support for the process is made available by System. UFS voted 33 for, 13 against, and 2 abstaining.

SL: "188-02-1 Holistic Student Space".

This resolution requests that the Chancellor direct campus presidents to ensure that there are both physical and virtual spaces available to support the holistic wellness needs of students, including plans to promote and maintain these spaces once established. UFS voted 41 for, 5 against, and 3 abstaining.

UG: "188-03-1 On Academic Planning for Responding to Future Crises"

This resolution urges System Administration and campuses to develop plans for maintaining academic functions in the event of future emergencies similar to the covid-19 pandemic, and to examine policies regarding the various instructional modalities used during such emergencies. UFS voted 46 in favor, 1 against, with no abstentions.

UG: "188-04-1 Recognition of COVID-19 Pandemic Response and the Need for Continued Support"

This resolution recognizes the hard work and resilience displayed by faculty, staff, students, and administrators in responding to the pandemic, recommends that these good efforts be documented and memorialized, and requests that System Administration continue to provide wellness, mental health, and professional development support going forward. UFS voted 41 for, 1 against, with no abstentions.

UCenters: "188-05-1 TIAA Divestment".

This resolution expresses support for TIAA fossil fuel divestment resolutions that have passed across the system, and calls of the Chancellor to encourage TIAA to invest in renewable energy funds. Background information will be added listing or linking to the divestment resolutions that have been passed on various SUNY campuses. Until then, this resolution is provisionally posted, so that members can share the approved text with their campuses. UFS voted 28 for, 10 against, with 4 abstentions.

A complete post-plenary report is available online at, <http://www.sunyufs.us/spring-2021-post-plenary-report-draft.html> and includes links to all power-point presentations and materials presented at the plenary session.

Prof. Walkling asked if there is still a concern about the hiring process of the Chancellor. Prof Sinclair said that this was discussed at the winter plenary session. A vote of no confidence was passed along with a considerable discussion about the fact that there was no search and that the Chancellor was appointed quickly by the Board of Trustees. The BOT used the justification that under the emergency circumstances, a decision of this kind was warranted. The UFS, the community college faculty senate, and students all have registered strong disapproval of this process and that faculty and students should be involved in this decision. By the UFS spring plenary, that controversy became virtually mute. The Chancellor has been visiting a number of campuses (and has come to Binghamton a few times) and is working hard to build strong relationships with campuses. UFS president Gwen Kay has said her relationship with the BOT has not suffered. We know the hiring process is there for a reason (open search), but once the BOT decided to go a different route, there was nothing to do except try to do better next time. Prof. Walkling asked if there are ongoing concerns by faculty governance SUNY-wide. Prof. Sinclair said that yes, there are concerns SUNY-wide. With the way the Chancellor was appointed and the vote of no confidence, it is felt that the BOT is showing that they can circumvent faculty governance. It is hoped that this does not warrant actions like that at the campus level. There is also concern about the level of engagement in governance at respective universities along with a concern about the online process about co-curriculum. There was no faculty engagement when this was set up. Faculty governance is important and we need to show that we need to do things together.

Chair Jill Dixon noted that this was her final Senate meeting and she has been honored to serve. She thanked her campus governance leaders Prof. Craver, Reiter, Jones, Krasno, Sinclair for their support, along with Laura O'Neil, secretary to the Faculty Senate, who is retiring.

After no more business, the meeting adjourned at 12:38 pm.

Present: Jeffner Allen, Laura Anderson, Nathanael Andrade, Allan Arkush, Michael Armstrong, Serdar Atav, Aaron Beedle, Paul Chairot, Stephen Capobianco, Leon Cosler, Scott Craver, Marilyn Desmond, Jill Dixon, Patrick Doyle, Danielle Dunne, Anthony Ephirim-Donkor, Alex Feingold, Mark Fowler, Rodney Gabel, Jeroen Gerritis, Neyda Gilman, Guy German, Jennifer Gordon, Christopher Hanes, Kevin Hatch, Norah Henry, Robert Holahan, Kimberly Jausi, Anushree Karkhanis, Blazo Kovacevic, Jonathan Krasno, BriaAnna Langlie, Alistair Lees, Cynthia Marasigan, Richard Mattson, Natalija Mijatovic, Ralph Miller, Donald Nieman, Sara Reiter, Myra Sabir, Paul Schleuse, Andrew Scholtz, David Schuster, Thomas Sinclair, Antonio Sobejano-Moran, Harvey Stenger, Elizabeth Tucker, Andrew Walkling, Bruce White, Wei Xiao, John Zilvinskis, Yan Zhang

Excused: Kimberly Brimhall, Anja Karanein, Nagendra Nagarur, Kevin White, Michelle Withers

Absent: Seden Akcinaroglu, Nancy Applebaum, Anne Bailey, John Baust, Christopher Bishop, Yulia Bosworth, Ana Maria Candela, Hwan-Sik Choi, Sung Chung, Leon Ciu, Sidney Dement, Lois Einhorn, Salvador Fajardo, Nicole Fenty, Thomas Glave, Madhusudhan Govindaraju, Khaleel James, Dikran Karagueuzian, Clarice Kelleher, Michael Lawler, Katherine Martineau, Ronald Miles, Richard Naslund, Kirsten Prior, Joshua Reno, Kevin Santiago Valles, John Starks, Thomas Wilson, Lijun Yin, Sarah Young, Zhongfei Zhang