

MINUTES OF
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 1, 2020

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

President Stenger began his report to the Full Faculty meeting attendees. See attached PowerPoint presentation for details. Presentation can also be found at <https://www.binghamton.edu/faculty-senate/docs/stenger-full-faculty-sept-1-2020.pdf>.

- Q: Will the George Floyd Scholarship funds be targeted to students who don't qualify for Excelsior scholarships?
- A: One of the criteria is leadership activities which is the dominant reason for the scholarship. We want the money to have an impact and to make sure the money helps students.
- Q: We would want to see underrepresented minorities students eligible.
- A: Underrepresented minorities is a criteria for eligibility in addition to students committed to anti-racism and not just social justice.
- C: One Senator commented that they would like to see black student applicants first, then students of color, receive priority consideration for the George Floyd Scholarship. Another Senator agrees on how the applicants should be prioritized. George Floyd's death was the result of a specific systemic issue -- anti-Black racism -- which seems the scholarship should first speak directly to that problem and those impacted by it.
- Q: Since the students will have many restrictions this semester to help contribute to their general welfare, are we encouraging them to form committees to give themselves outlets outdoors?
- A: We have offered equipment that is necessary for outdoor activities and there are tents in all of the residential communities for outdoor activities. The Student Association has been active in making sure that clubs/organizations are prepared to do a lot of their work virtually but will also have access to meeting space with proper social distancing on campus. We are encouraging interaction as much as possible.
- Q: Regarding capital improvements, how long is the needed work on the Fine Arts building on hold?
- A: This was not focused on over the summer even though we had formed a planning committee for a consultant to help us in the process. **Action: President Stenger** to get detailed information from Vice President Navarro.
- Q: What about testing for faculty and staff?
- A: Starting next week faculty/staff will have the ability to be tested. We are still working out details on payment, etc. and an announcement will be made next week.
- Q: Will the spring semester be in-person instruction or is this yet to be determined?
- A: We will build our schedule for in-person instruction. It is too early to tell what the virus situation will be by the spring but we will build the schedule as if we were going to be teaching in person. We do have time to figure this out as things develop.
- Q: What about students who have roommates who have symptoms?
- A: Students should contact Health Services. This particular roommate would have been tested immediately with results within an hour or two. We should have messages going out to students about this support.
- Q: What about in-person classroom technology support?
- A: The staff in CLT and Training and Development are available to discuss specific issues. They have held workshops and also have information on the CLT website with good directions. People are available to discuss specific issues if one doesn't find help after viewing webpage and workshops.

- Q: It is important that we monitor our students' behavior, but there is a fear that there is a danger we are over-policing the students and are not making it clear to them what we as faculty/staff are doing about precautions. There is a worry about the burden being placed on students in keeping campus open/safe, when it's also important to recognize that staff/faculty make the campus community too.
- A: It is important to note that student having/attending parties of 30 to 50 students can be dangerous. SUNY Oneonta had 100 positives from one party. This would be a reason why we would have to go fully remote if students are inconsiderate of others.
- Q: Why not test students to be sure?
- A: **Action: President Stenger** to follow-up with Dr. Moose on Health Services' decisions on who to test.
- C: It is hard to social distance from other roommates who do not want to do so.
- A: We have emphasized to students the potential for punishment.
- Q: We are happy to see an early commencement scheduled for the class of 2021. What about for the class of 2020?
- A: Commencement for the class of 2020 may be held the weekend before the class of 2021 commencement.
- Q: When will we make a decision about the start date for the spring semester?
- A: A formal announcement will be made within a week.

Chair Dixon noted that the Campus Governance Leaders (CGL) meet with President Stenger monthly (and will meet weekly in September) so Senators can notify Chair Dixon if they have any issues or questions that should be discussed.

After no questions, the Full Faculty meeting was adjourned.

The first Faculty Senate meeting of the 2020-2021 academic year was called to order by Assoc. Librarian Jill Dixon at 12:40 pm.

1. Minutes

Minutes from May 12, 2020 meeting were approved.

2. Obituary Notices

Assoc. Librarian Dixon notified the body that Sr. Catalog Librarian Donald Brister, University Libraries; Distinguished Professor Thomas O'Connor, Romance Languages; Prof. Lisa Blitz, Social Work; Prof. Maria Lugones, Comparative Literature and Latin American and Caribbean Area Studies; and Prof. Lubna Chaudhry, Human Development passed away. Assoc. Librarian Dixon asked for a moment of silence to remember these colleagues.

3. New Business

a. EIT Accessibility Policy – Dean Curtis Kendrick

Dean Kendrick provided an overview of the EIT Accessibility Policy for proposed technology accessibility. We want all students to have access to the education they deserve. This is not just a BU issue; SUNY is requiring campuses to have a policy and action plan. We formed a review committee and assigned an accessibility officer (Dean Kendrick) and have tools in place to help people make their information more accessible.

A liaison model will be set up so departments and faculty will know which campus units or entities are responsible for content in need of remediation.

The motion is to endorse the policy. After virtual voting, it was approved with 60 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

Dean Kendrick also noted that we do want student engagement along with campus awareness and support. We are considering a strategy to require that at least one of the two presentations in the "O" course use EIT technology in accordance with the new policy.

- b. University Faculty Senate report -- Prof. Thomas Sinclair, University Faculty Senator
Prof. Sinclair reported that a resolution is coming in October from the University Faculty Senate regarding the SUNY Board of Trustees' appointment of Dr. James Malatras who became the new Chancellor. The UFS executive committee is concerned about the appointment process which was done without a search. UFS is proposing a vote of no confidence in the Board of Trustees. There is nothing that questions Dr. Malatras' role or activity, just a concern of the appointment process. UFS Senators Sinclair and Reiter will vote on this resolution in October at the UFS meeting with prior input from our Faculty Senate.
- c. Announcements
 - FSEC chair Prof. Scott Craver reported that FSEC meetings will be held weekly. One of the first agenda items is to discuss the Campus Citizen Review Board.

After no more business, the meeting adjourned at 1:01 pm.

Present: Saligrama Agnihotri, Jeffner Allen, Laura Anderson, Nathanael Andrade, Michael Armstrong, Serdar Atav, Aaron Beedle, Christopher Bishop, Kimberly Brimhall, Sharon Bryant, Subimal Chatterjee, Paul Chairot, Sung Chung, Leon Cosler, Scott Craver, Marilyn Desmond, Jill Dixon, Patrick Doyle, Anthony Ephirim-Donkor, Mark Fowler, Jeroen Gerrits, Neyda Gilman, Jennifer Gordon, Madhusudhan Govindaraju, Norah Henry, Robert Holahan, Anushree Karkhanis, Clarice Kelleher, Blazo Kovacevic, Jonathan Krasno, Alistair Lees, Cynthia Marasigan, Andrea MacArgel, Natalija Mijatovic, Ralph Miller, Donald Nieman, Sara Reiter, Myra Sabir, Paul Schleuse, Andrew Scholtz, David Schuster, Thomas Sinclair, Antonio Sobejano-Moran, Harvey Stenger, Ozlem Tonguc, Elizabeth Tucker, Ruth Van Dyke, Andrew Walkling, Bruce White, Wei Xiao, Yan Zhang

Excused: Alex Feingold, Guy German, Zhongfei Zhang

Absent: Seden Akcinaroglu, Nancy Applebaum, Allan Arkush, Anne Bailey, John Baust, Ana Maria Candela, Hwan-Sik Choi, Leon Ciu, Sidney Dement, Lois Einhorn, Salvador Fajardo, Nicole Fenty, Thomas Glave, Kevin Hatch, Dikran Karagueuzian, Anja Karanein, Michael Lawler, Katherina Martineau, Richard Mattson, Ronald Miles, Nagendar Nagarur, Richard Naslund, Joshua Reno, Kevin Santiago Valles, David Wilson, Michelle Withers, Lijun Yin, Sarah Young, John Zilvinskis