

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK  
COLLEGE AT OLD WESTBURY**

**Faculty Senate**

**Friday, April 17, 2020**

**12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

**Location: Virtual Meeting**

**Documents for this meeting and calendar of meetings are available at:**

<https://sites.google.com/site/oldwestburyfacultysenate/archive>

**MINUTES**

**Senators Present:** Andrew Mattson (Chair), Dana Sinclair (Secretary/Treasurer), Maureen Dolan (Parliamentarian), Laurette Morris (University Senator), Michael Kavic (At Large Rep to the EC), Bonnie Eannone (Professional), Laura Anker (FY), John Estes (Senator At Large), Roger Mayer (AC), Jillian Nissen (BS), Camile Jones (C&P), Veronika Dolar (PEL), Curtis Holland (SY), Eric Hagan (VA), Alireza Ebrahimi (FRRC), Edislav Manetovic (LEC), Ashok Basawapatna (TLRC), Jon Kleinman (Professional), Erin Toolis (PY), Mervyn Keizer (EN), Do Young Park (Math/CIS), Sara Williamson (MMF), Lisa Payton (AS), Ana Martinez (Professional), Deepa Jani (EN), Peter Ikeler (APPC), Ashley Alvarado (SGA Senator), Zarrin Mahmud (SGA Senator)

**Senators Absent:** Joseph Foy (Senator at Large), Kathleen Velsor (Senator at Large), Jingyi Song (HP), Zenaida Madurka (ML), Kathleen O'Connor-Bater (HLCC), Elizabeth Morphis (SLC), Runi Muhkerji (University Senator Alternate), Blidi Stemm (CE), Christopher Hobson (ARPT), Shijian Li (PH),

**Non-Voting Members of the Senate Present:** Amanda Frisken (Acting Dean, SAS) Diana Sukhram (Acting Dean, SOE) Raj Devasagayam (Dean, SOB)

**Visitors:** Martha Livingston, Jacob Heller, Anthony Barbera, Jennie D'Amboise, Parker Stephens, Jahvon Spencer-Newell, Gregg Rodger, Barbara Hillery. Chibundu Chukuezi, Jason Kaloudis, Kerry Weir, Patricia Harris, Chelsea Shields-Mas, Tricia McLaughlin, Frank Pizzardi, Jillian Crocker

- I. Call to Order 12:30 p.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes for March 3, 2020
  - Minutes were approved as amended
- III. Chair's Report
  1. Agenda Items for the May 1st Full Faculty Meeting and the May 15th Senate Meeting? We have two meetings left in the semester. Senators: What should governance be discussing? What does the full faculty need to hear about? Please send agenda items to the Senate Chair as soon as possible. What needs to be done to be ready for fall?
  2. Faculty Election Nominations Due Today. Email nominations for faculty committees to Dinorah Martinez today, Friday 4/17.

3. Nominations for Faculty Senate Chair: Senators! You are eligible to run for Faculty Senate Chair for AY 2020-2021. Nominate yourself or any current senator by emailing Dinorah Martinez. Nominations close on May 15th. The election will take place at the May 15th Senate meeting.
4. Liberal Education Committee: "LEC held a meeting on the new grading policy for this semester. The decision was that: "CR will count for all gen ed and proficiency courses for spring 2020 only.""
5. Academic Policy & Practices Committee: The APPC co-chairs engaged in an email exchange with Academic Affairs to advise the Provost on his proposed temporary revisions of grading and credit policy for this semester. The need to inform students in a timely manner to reduce our attrition rate requires that Academic Affairs make quick policy adjustments. The normal process of faculty deliberation was necessarily abbreviated due to exigent circumstances. These policy changes are temporary measures that will expire after this academic year unless the pandemic shutdown continues into the fall which may require an extension of these temporary measures.
6. Academic Policy Changes: The Senate Chair wishes to thank the Provost and Academic Affairs for consulting repeatedly with governance, APPC, ARPT, and LEC to discuss the necessary changes to appointment, student evaluation, academic grading, credit/no credit, proficiency, academic standing, dorm policy, and other temporary policy revisions required to safeguard the interests of our faculty and students in this difficult time.
7. Information & Technology Services: The Senate Chair wishes to thank the CIO and all the Staff of ITS for their tireless efforts to support, train, and equip faculty and students for our new adventures in distance learning. I know that many faculty members are especially grateful to Chandra Shehigian and her staff of trainers for teaching us to use Blackboard and Collaborate to reconnect with our students. The staff at the Service Desk have also been crucial to navigating our new tech environment and handling our many support requests. Thank you.
8. SPAAR Committee Update: The committee co-chairs are assessing the ability of the committee to complete its charge this semester in response to the obstacles created by the pandemic. The new priorities of the administration and the faculty have slowed the progress of our assessment. However, the committee has collected data from the divisions about the implementation of the strategic plans. The data is being analyzed by SPAAR subcommittees responsible for assessing progress and make recommendations by the May 15th SPAARC meeting regarding the next academic and fiscal year. A report will be submitted to the administration and faculty governance in June of 2020.
9. The President: The President is not able to attend the senate meeting today. His office was contacted twice via email to confirm his plan to attend. The first response was that the Office of the President could not confirm that the President would attend due to the unpredictable demands on the President's time because of the crisis conditions and his many important responsibilities arising from the building of a hospital facility on the campus. There was no reply from the Office of the President to a second email asking for confirmation. Since there was no response, the Chair of the Senate removed the Presidential Report from the agenda for this meeting.

#### IV. Provost's Report

- **Barbara Hillery:** The first thing is, I believe it was at the last senate meeting, when we were discussing the credit, no credit policy, that people were asking for an advisory of some sort, something that would help with advising students as to whether or not they should take the credit, no credit. So, Deans have been collecting that information. It's been sent to Duncan, he has created the advisory for the undergraduates that that I think people want.
- The lot of people have been asking about faculty lines at this point in time. SUNY has issued a 30-day moratorium on any employment actions for full time people. So, that's being termed essentially a hiring freeze. So, there is a hiring freeze at least temporarily. But it's not just hiring. We can't fire anybody either.
- They've made it clear that during this COVID period, there can be for at least 30 days up until about the middle of May, there can be no actions on full time employees in terms of hiring or firing. Then after that, basically, it's all budget related.
- What they're discussing at the moment is that if any hires are made, they need to be prioritized in terms of need.
- An update on the natural science building renovations. As you know, we've been trying for some time to get, you know, essentially an extra \$80 million beyond what we were offered initially in order to build in addition, at the moment, well we still don't have that money, but we're going forward with the renovation of the current building itself.
- We had a meeting with the architects on April 1, that included the architects and included the Capital Planning people from Old Westbury. Our next meeting for the renovations is set for April 22.
- **Jacob Heller :** In addition to the credit/no credit policy that everyone is now should be fully aware of that Barbara talked about academic affairs is also working with faculty governance to address the issue of students who are on probation, and who might be subject to suspension or dismissal on the basis of their GPA.
- So, if students get more than if they were on probation in the fall, they get higher than a 2.0. This semester, they're off probation. If they were on probation as of the end of the fall, and they don't get the 2.0. This semester, their probation will be extended into the fall semester.
- Possibility of academic standing hearings for those who need it in August but certainly not in June.
- **Anthony Barbera:** It's just the periodic update on the status of Middle States. We're very appreciative that everyone on the Middle States work groups have continued to work on their charges. We continue to get draft chapters we continue to make revisions. And the steering committee continues to meet on its regularly scheduled dates. So, we are moving along and we are on target to have a pen ultimate final draft of the report in time for the fall. When still right now, our team, our visiting team chair is scheduled to make a preliminary visit. We still don't know who that team chair will be. So, we don't have an actual date yet for when the visit will be. The visit will be sometime in the spring of 2021.

#### V. UUP Update (M. Livingston)

- UUP has been holding meetings. Things that have been very successful. We had a virtual adjunct focused meeting on Tuesday at Common Hour, which was very well attended and any adjuncts who are on this meeting, please feel free to join us. The next one is going to be on Tuesday the 28th also at Common Hour. Last night, we had a virtual happy hour.

- People just are enjoying being with one another. We have our first ever virtual general membership meeting this coming Tuesday, the 21st at noon. If you cannot make it, we will also have virtual office hours on Tuesday at 2:30.
- We have some ongoing concerns about the security for members files that are being digitized, and to my knowledge, Jacob, there were no modifications in the ARPT meeting schedule.
- However, going forward this may be the way to go, moving away from paper and digitizing files going forward.
- One issue that UUP is concerned about is the issue of tenure clocks. And that is, we're talking statewide to SUNY about the issues that our pre tenured folks will have going forward.
- There are three categories of members who we really feel especially need additional compensation. And of those three categories two have them apply to our campus. That would be our adjunct faculty, and second category on our campus is, of course, our IT staff.

#### VI. E-Catalog Subcommittee Report (C. Noutsos, K. Weir)

- The E-catalog Task Force, it's a large committee with diverse perspectives. We've been meeting throughout the spring semester and are going to continue to meet into the weeks ahead as of now, we have spoken to four possible vendors.
- We've spoken to Leepfrog, CourseLeaf, Digarc, Coursedog, and SmartCatalog by Watermark.
- Right now, the current situation has us looking at moving the course catalog into a digital version no earlier than the fall of 2021.

#### VII. SGA Resolution (Zarrin Mahmud, SGA Senator)

- Myself and a lot of other students on campus, we're pretty concerned about our academic performance. Which will be impacted given the current circumstances. So that's why as student leaders we put together this resolution that we feel better accommodates the situation that we're facing without jeopardizing our goals, post higher education.
- The resolution was read to the Senate.
- SGA recommends the following ABC grading scale, which is to have an A fall in the range between the hundred and 87th percentile, or B followed within 86 and 74th percentile. And C between 73 and 68th percentile.
- Also further recommends to waive all letter grade requirements for the spring 2020 semester in each department.
- It was pointed out that there is a credit/no credit option, however some departments have chosen to keep a grade requirement. And it may very well be that a C, which could be earned with a 60 may not be acceptable to those departments either, in which case, those departments may feel necessary to raise the minimum requirements this semester to a B, which would be counterproductive to what the students are trying to achieve and what all of us are trying to achieve.
- Open for questions and discussion.

*[At this point the meeting was disrupted by a "Zoom-bombing." Some participants left the meeting, some returned shortly after. After everyone was settled the discussion continued.]*

- No action was taken on the SGA resolution. Procedural point: the resolution had not been seconded.
- Suggestions were made regarding how to bring the resolution or a substitute resolution to a subsequent Senate meeting.

#### VIII. IT Governance Committee Update (C. Holland)

- So much of the last meeting was dedicated to discussing the issue of whether to use Zoom or Microsoft Teams moving forward. So, the administration and ITS, did acknowledge that most of the faculty prefer Zoom over Teams, and signal that we will probably plan to transition to a campus wide use of Zoom in the future.
- Still getting a Zoom contract will cost more than Microsoft Teams. That's obviously a concern. And there's administrative features that come with Microsoft teams that are available in Zoom but are more expensive and they it takes some planning to implement it.
- There are still some people who prefer Microsoft Teams, especially for small meetings, one-on-one meetings like the tutoring center. Advising has also been using Microsoft Teams effectively. It's an option to have both, but again, this will depend on cost and other things.
- ITS confirmed that about half the students who requested laptops were given them during this transition phase.
- There's still discussion about whether they want to lower the vetting on those students who still haven't received laptops, and perhaps be more flexible with them, given the current situation.
- Good news, and I believe this was already reported in the past, but 80 to 90% of students have transitioned relatively successfully to the distance learning format. They're engaged, they haven't disappeared. And that seems like a positive number, considering that some of our students, given the backgrounds they tend to come from, are on the front lines of this crisis.
- I know there's concern about transitioning to new projectors, new computers. There's a lot of issues we had in the classroom. So, the original plan was to have four different classrooms in place for trials for four different companies, projectors coming from four different companies. But that obviously can't happen now, in this spring semester.
- There' is a plan to do it over the summer. But I didn't get any more details on that. They just said that it is planned for the summer. So hopefully it will be the upgrades will be ready for the fall. Initially, all of the New Academic Building classrooms were going to be upgraded. It's not clear at this point, if that will still happen.
- Floor was open for discussion

#### IX. Sharing of Concerns/Announcements

(20 minutes)

#### X. Adjournment (2:30pm)