University Senate Meeting Minutes

December 7, 2020, 3:30-5:00 PM (Zoom Meeting)

Meeting called to order by Dr. Richard Larson, the University Senate President, at 3:30 PM. Meeting recording can be viewed here. A motion to approve the agenda and the minutes from November 2, 2020 carried.

Greetings from Richard Larson, University Senate President
- Welcomed everyone to the last meeting of the University Senate for Fall 2020.

Report from President Maurie McInnis
- Full written report can be viewed here.
    - Covid-19 cases are rising.
    - Had a very successful Fall semester.
    - Thanked students for understanding and following guidelines which lead to having fewer than 100 Covid-19 cases among our students.
    - Pooled testing for faculty, staff and non-resident students will continue.
    - Have ability to identify positive Covid-19 cases and isolate individuals to avoid the spread.
    - Will increase surveillance testing of residential students to twice a week in Spring.
    - Covid-19 dashboard updated daily.
    - SUNY passed a policy to test students within 10 days before Thanksgiving break to allow them to return home.
    - A number of students remained on campus during the Thanksgiving break due to Covid positive tests.
    - Thanked Dining staff and student affairs team who provided Covid positive students with Thanksgiving meals and care packages.
    - Recommended to keep holiday gatherings small.
    - The Gordon Bell Special Prize for High Performance Computing-Based COVID-19 Research was awarded to Carlos Simmerling and his team.
    - The faculty and staff involved in five task forces are focused on specific issues and will submit their priorities to the executive leadership later this month.
    - The search for the provost is in the process of the next round of interviews with finalist candidates.
    - Will launch search for the Vice President for Advancement and the director of the stony brook foundation this week.
    - Endowments are developed to provide support for teaching, research, and service missions. Stony Brook has a relatively small endowment.

- Question: J. Sanders - I'd be interested to know if in the directives for investment of our endowment there are ethical considerations.

- Answer - I'm afraid I can't answer your question.

Interim Provost Sotiropoulos's Report
- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Congratulated faculty who are recently ranked as distinguished professionals at Stony Brook.
- Recruitment targets in PhD, DMA and MFA programs for the year 21-22 will be reduced by 50%.
    - Students have been delayed at least for one or two semesters, so that it is quite prudent to reduce recruitment target to redirect resources to support the current students.
- University president has offered to establish a presidential completion fellowship program to help finishing doctoral candidate support for one semester or more with a goal of mitigating financial concerns and giving students time to focus on research and creative activities.
- Date to submit Fall semester final grades is Dec 22nd.
- Deadline to submit nominations for the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in classified service is Jan 7, 2021.
- Provost lecture series will be on Zoom.
- Planning for the winter and spring terms:
    - Blackboard maintenance- upload the syllabus before December 27
    - Winter term credit- students may request approval up to eight credits
    - Spring semester – Will start on Feb 1st, no Spring break, asking faculty to give some relief on quizzes, tests, exams.
    - Possibility of starting the semester remotely.

- Question- J. Torre – What would the revenue impact be from reducing the doctoral MFA and other students in the upcoming years?
    - Answer – We're not talking about reducing the number of students, we're talking about reducing the recruitment target, and this will be decided at the programmatic level.

- Question- M. Bowman – Is there some formula by which a decision will be made to go hybrid or fully online?
    - Answer – This will be determined by different factors and we will communicate it in January.

Sr. VP for Health Sciences Dr. Kenneth Kashansky
- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Program in public health offers one master degree in public health and one in healthcare management.
- Dr. Philips is the new dean for minority student affairs.

- School of Medicine faculty launched a post Covid clinic, for patients who have recovered, whether they were outpatient, inpatient, or intensive care unit patients, for purpose of data collection and studying the post Covid problems.
- The World Trade Center received a $2 million grant.
- The School of Health Technology and Management has launched an inner professional Tele health board to improve Tele health practice.
- The School of Nursing hosted a presentation in mid-November on PTSD and healthcare personnel lessons from Vietnam.
- Hospital is entering the second round of Covid-19:
    - The only problem is staffing.
- Use virtual meetings rather than in-person gatherings during holidays.

- Question – R. Larson: Please provide a quick summary of where we are with mixture of Covid and Flu season. How do you see the campus vaccination process in Spring?
    - Answer – Using mask will help for both cases. We have asked Chancellor make us the vaccination center in Suffolk. We had asked to provide us with about 1000 vaccine doses allocated to use for our frontline staff.

- Question – M. Bowman: We have old buildings with less than an ideal circulation. What is the difference between a classroom and family gathering?
    - Answer – Masks will be taken off in family gatherings to eat or drink.

- Question – R. Larson: Do we have any documented cases of instructors getting sick by interacting with students in a classroom across the nation?
    - Answer – Nothing that we are aware of.

Discussion with Rose Martinelli, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Charlie McMahon, CIO

Transition from Google to Microsoft issues:
- Question – R. Larson: Why do we have to do this transition? we have been living with a split brain for many, many years, we have an East Campus hemisphere and a west campus atmosphere, it seems to have been okay for us not to communicate.
    - Answer:
        - R. Martinelli - We want to get to similar tools across the campus and save on ERP costs like HR, procurement, payroll, and student information systems. I'm asking C. McMahon to talk about the binary choice that we had, which is Google or Microsoft because we have one on one side and one on the other.
        - C. McMahon – When I was filling out the paperwork to be hired in Stony Brook last year, I was thinking of east or west and I looked at that. I didn't even know what we were talking about. Then, during the first snowfall, I was told that different snow removal services take care of west and east campuses. Thinking to bring ourselves to

the common identity, we started looking to transition from Google to Microsoft or the opposite. With faculty and staff on the academic side we've got about 5000 users, and in medical enterprise (including students) we've got around 18,000 users. It's more difficult to move the hospital environment and the academic medical environment and all of the affiliated, than to move our academic enterprise from Google to Microsoft.

- R. Martinelli – It's a very large and difficult discussion that we want to deal with very carefully. So, we want to design a process that engages our faculty and staff community outside of the strategic budgeted initiative. We plan to host a number of focus groups, first to understand where the issues are and then issue a campus wide survey or really pull up look more deeply at the issue and understand all the areas that need to be uncovered for us to investigate from a technological side. This will inform our planning process and which direction we will go. This is just the beginning of a process that will allow us to learn more before we make a decision on an implementation plan and timeline for how we move forward. I know this is a difficult conversation, but we hope to handle it with care.

- Question – M. Schedel – I was co-chair of the original group that moved us on at least west campus to Google, and at that time, it was a unanimous decision and it was unfortunate that Google was not HIPAA compliant at that time. And so, the hospital needed to stay on the other side. So, I would just like to voice the concerns of many faculty that we have integrated Google into our teaching into our administration into our collaborative work. Is there a way that we can somehow keep both with some sort of access management system. I really, really cannot stress enough how many faculties from all kinds of departments are very, very concerned about this, particularly as we've been leveraging these wonderful online tools that Google has provided into our teaching during pandemic, and to throw us into another system for next year. I am really very hesitant about this. I hope to be convinced. I do know that it causes all kinds of problems, not to have the University on the same system, but we need to do this a lot more carefully and right now it seems as if the decision has been made and that's no OK.

  - Answer - There are a lot of technical questions that have not been answered yet. It's hard to get into a common identity without merging to a single communication platform.

Shayam Sharma – Faculty member here, who is also on the curriculum committee, was totally depending on the current Google Drive based process, the entire mechanism of forums and collaborations and commenting and fat feedback on faculties. Syllabi is based on that. I'm Graduate Program Director, lot of the collaborations at that level mid middle administration and then I'm in the department of Writing and Rhetoric,

which depends entirely on a portfolio process. Entirely on student feedback we're able to give multiple rounds of feedback to students if anybody can prove that Microsoft can do the educational work that we do as faculty members in this foundation on courses, I will go with it. I am a tech savvy person and I'm also involved in training faculty in my department with technology, but I do not believe that Microsoft allows the kind of collaboration drafting, multiple drafts history, all that stuff. If Microsoft does not have the kinds of educational tools that Google education apps do so please do not make a technological decision, please make an educational decision. And I keep hearing from Charlie, you're saying technological questions technological identity, but I haven't heard pedagogical once so far.

Reports from UUP:
- Carolyn Kube:
    - West campus will have a general membership meeting at 8:30 tomorrow.
    - No word on the 2% salary increase across the board.
    - DSI and compression has been put off to march 17.
    - Telecommunicating is extended till Jan 1, 2021, but UUP is advocating till the end of the spring semester.

Old Business
- J. Sanders had asked a question, having to do with four years graduation rates and the number of faculty.
    - Answer - The four years graduate rate hit another record high 65% overall. Tenure track faculty were basically unchanged from 990 in the fall of 2019 to 989 in the fall 2020. Full time underrepresented minority increased from 156 in the fall of 2019 to 163 in the fall of 2020.

New Business:
- Poll results for UFS Resolution 186.01 (Racial Equity and Social Justice Curriculum):
    Endorsed 67%
- Poll results for UFS Resolution 186.05 (Importance of maintaining effective shared governance practices during times of crisis):
    Endorsed 99%

Meeting adjourned at 5:08 PM.