

University Senate – April 3, 2023



University Senate Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2023

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Virtual via Zoom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Brian Akonu, Margaret Ball, Nurum Begum, Bill Broun, Donna Bulzoni, Marguerite Carver, Kevin Casebolt, Jeyaprakash Chelladurai, Laureen Clossey, Robert Cohen, Donna-Marie Cole-Malott, Darla Drummond, Susan Dillmuth-Miller, Chris Domanski, Johan Eliasson, Melissa Geiger, Nieves Gruneiro-Roadcap, Yongwook Ju, Chris Kavanau, Heon Kim, Tommy Kish, Brooke Langan, Ken Long, Karen Lucas, Jason Narvy, Erin O'Donnell, Kim Razzano, Melinda Rosen, Michael Sachs, Jessica Santiago, Elizabeth Scott, Denise Seigart, Jennie Smith, Leigh Smith, Rob Smith, Brandon Snyder, Santiago Solis, Nancy VanArsdale, Keith Vanic, Kelly Varcoe, Sylvester Williams,

ABSENT:

Lorraine Arocho, Miguel Barbosa, Rob Berkowitz, Jill Boyle, John Chang, Stanley Chiang, Nick D'Angelo, Isabel Ford, James Galdieri, Heather Garrison, Tobi Granville, William Green, Jan Hoffman, Michelle Jones-Wilson, Sarah Louis, Margaret Mullan, Marcus Narcisse, Richard Otto, Nisar Patel, Mary Frances Postupack, Jihad Safi, Salome Sanchez, Swornim Shrestha, Tom Tauer, Matt Wallace, Shawn Watkins, Daisy Wang, Rosemary Williams, Gabby Yaczkiewicz, Peng Zhang, Xuemao Zhang, Xiaochen Zhou

Roll Call

- 1) Review of March 13, 2023 Minutes
 - a. Approved with changes
- 2) University President's Report:
 - Strategic Planning committee continues to meet. The final draft is expected to be finished after the end of the semester, and it will be disseminated for review and comments.
 - The University Center construction project continues as scheduled.
 - There will be a Celebration of Life for Frank Pullo on April 15th.
 - Spring Commencement ceremonies will take place on Friday May 5th and Saturday May 6th. Please come out to the event to show support for our students.
 - Campus safety and security-the President's office received a request to return to electronic key entry for all academic buildings on campus. Would like Senate input on this topic.
- 3) Fix the Agenda –
- 4) Committee reports:

University Senate – April 3, 2023

- a. Executive Committee –
 - Met March 27th and set the agenda for the meeting.
 - Departments I through Z were notified that their current Senator’s term has been fulfilled. Thank you to the Senators who served their terms.
 - b. Academic Affairs –
 - A transfer summit was held on Friday with administrators from both Northampton Community College and ESU. We are continuing to discuss ways to improve the transfer process for students.
 - The Gardner Institute RPM co-chairs have been chosen. The curricular committee will be led by Nieves Gruneiro with co-chairs Steven Boyer and Cornelia Allen. The co-curricular committee will be led by Jenny Smith with co-chairs Jacqueline Kressel and Tim Connelly.
 - c. Rules and By-Laws – no report
 - d. Budget, Finance and Planning –
 - Met on March 30th. Donna Bulzoni provided an update on the updated comprehensive planning process document and the current fiscal year’s budget.
 - e. Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence Committee –
 - Continuing to work on identifying student senators to represent this subcommittee.
 - f. Research –
 - Continuing initiative to find out the research software needs of the faculty. Will be attending college meetings and ask Chairs and Deans for feedback. Focusing on qualitative software needs.
 - g. University Senate Evaluation Committee – report pending
 - Met on March 27th. We will be discussing the results of the survey later in this meeting.
 - We accomplished are goals for the Senate Evaluation Committee.
 - h. Student Government Association Report –
 - Elections are coming up for President and Vice President.
 - Working on a web page for Student Government Association.
 - Met with Governor Shapiro discussed plans for his budget and Gen Z briefings.
 - Student suggestion day coming up on Friday.
 - Updated safety walk tentatively scheduled for April 18th to identify areas on campus that need to be improved.
- 5) Old Business – none
- 6) New Business –
- a. Nominations and Elections –nominations for Senate Executive Board membership received, there are no further nominations.

University Senate – April 3, 2023

- Nominated and elected as President – Susan Dillmuth-Miller
 - Nominated and elected as Vice President – Elizabeth Scott
 - Nominated and elected as Secretary/Treasurer – Kelly Varcoe
 - Nominated and elected as Member at Large – Keith Vanic
- b. Thanksgiving/Switch Day Proposals-Nancy Van Arsdale provided a review of the Calendar Committee and a brief history of the some of the reasoning for the current calendar.
- Motion made to have a 2 day fall break instead of just one day and have the last day of the semester fall on a Monday with finals taking place Tuesday through Friday with a Saturday make up day. Motion seconded.
 - Discussion:
 - Need to make sure we make the federal requirement for number of weeks and that classes are meeting the required amount of minutes.
 - Student input supports this proposal.
 - A number of departments support this proposal.
 - Vote: The proposal to have 2 days for fall break, Monday and Tuesday, and have Wednesday through Friday off at Thanksgiving with the semester ending on Monday, with Tuesday through Friday for finals and Saturday being the make-up day. Majority vote: Yes. Our Senate recommendation will be sent to the President.
- 7) Open Discussion –
- a. University Senate Survey results discussion and recommendations. Other discussions regarding visibility and promotion of the University Senate were made including ideas for branding, use of school newspaper and continuing to make more meaningful recommendations of value to the University Community.
- b. Campus Security: Proposal to discuss the request to revert to having all campus building locked with card access only. Student requests to keep all campus buildings locked and only allow card swipe access. Summary of discussion:
- All buildings are open M-F from 8-4:30 normal business hours faculty and students have access. Different buildings lock at different times. Campus buildings have different access needs, when outside of the access times sometimes doors are propped open.
 - The system is flexible, and buildings can be changed instantaneously by door.
 - Student athletes are assigned access at all different hours at the field house. All students need card access.
 - Having doors locked with card access reduces potential risk. Needs further review and Chief's input. What does the campus community want?
 - Other options-having locks on classroom doors.
 - Many campuses, particularly in cities require swipe access at all times.

University Senate – April 3, 2023

- Swipe access would not prevent people from getting into buildings. Students tend to hold doors open for people. This wouldn't stop anybody who wanted entrance. Even in dorms where swipe access is required, there are times when people get in because of polite students holding the doors open for strangers.
- Public universities should be open to the public and the community and be able to move freely through the campus.
- There have been times that weekend access has occurred, garbage and evidence of alcohol and smoking were left.
- The field house has lots of community access in the facility. It would be helpful to have less access to preserve resources in the field house.
- Could we determine levels of perceived threats to change access conditions based on threat? If threat was imminent the campus could be on lockdown, and have doors unlocked when there is no threat.
- Automatic locks give the ability to physically lock the doors for extra protection when needed.
- The Department of Education students are terrified after every school shooting wondering how we can prepare them. Research has shown that having doors and buildings locked is a precaution that works.
- Need to involve students in this important discussion, what are we doing to maintain student safety. How do we prepare them. Feeling unsafe at work or at school is an issue.
- RA's are trained to emphasize that students should not let strangers in. Students need more education on that. Students need to be involved in keeping the campus safe.
- Other safety concerns are making sure students know where to exit a building in the event of an emergency. Students are out of practice with how to respond to a fire drill, we need to remind students in the classroom the procedures for safe evacuation of the building.

8) Announcements:

a. Lots of campus events coming up.

- The Musical "Cabaret" running 4/20-4/23
- The Research Symposium during Inauguration Week.
- 2 Jazz concerts
- Empty Bowls fundraiser Wednesday April 26th

2) Adjournment @ 1638