

MINUTES OF  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
February 26, 2019

The third Faculty Senate meeting of the 2018-2019 academic year was called to order by Prof. Jonathan Karp, Judaic Studies, at 11:47 am.

1. Minutes

After no discussion, the minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting were approved.

2. Resolution on Gender Neutral Language in all SUNY correspondence

Management Systems. Faculty input is needed, and Provost Neiman asked that Senators spread the word to their colleagues and departments for input.

4. Fast-Track Professional MBA (NYC) deactivation

Prof. Sara Reiter, SOM, and chair of EPPC, noted that the Faculty Senate has to vote on discontinuances and deactivations of programs. This particular program will be restarted at different site so the program in New York City must be deactivated.

Prof. Olivia Holmes, English, asked if BU was involved with this. Yes, SOM is involved in the New York City location.

After no discussion, this was approved by a vote of 41 in favor with 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

5. Reports University Faculty Senate Plenary

Prof. Sara Reiter, University Faculty Senator, reported on the highlights of the University Faculty Senate Plenary meeting that was held in Cobleskill, January 17-19, 2019.

There are several issues for campuses to consider -- a bylaws revision to the UFS bylaws concerning the duties of the Vice President/Secretary, input into the sexual harassment and consensual relationship policies (although it is not clear what role the campuses, as opposed to the Unions, have in these policies), and a resolution on Maintenance of Effort for SUNY and CUNY.

Discussions of particular interest to the campus include:

General Education . Proposals will come at the Spring Plenary. There are many issues under consideration, such as alignment with Middle States standards and allowing gen ed courses in the junior and senior years (which is already part of gen ed on our campus). The goal is to develop a flexible framework.

Seamless Transfer . A process to review the transfer paths is underway with identification of faculty on each campus associated with each transfer path. The plan is to conduct a survey this spring and then formulate a plan for review of transfer paths.

Budget items . Partial restoration of the retroactive pay increase is in the Governor's budget as are proposed cuts to University-wide programs such as EOP.

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The University Centers asked the Chancellor how SUNY System can provide leadership in sustaining the humanities in the face of increasing demand for STEM degrees. The Chancellor pointed to her fellowship program which supports graduate students in a variety of fields.

The two resolutions passed were:

- Increase the minimum length of time in rank to five years and the minimum length of service at the nominating campus to three years for Distinguished Professors.
- A call for maintenance of effort (better funding) for SUNY and CUNY.

6. New Business

- a. Discussion of Transdisciplinary Areas of Excellence (TAE) Evaluation committee report and Joint Task Force on Transdisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Work Report and Recommendations

The Transdisciplinary Areas of Excellence (TAE) Evaluation committee was chaired by Prof. Sinclair, and the Joint Task Force on Transdisciplinary and Interdisciplinary Work was co-chaired by Dean Elizabeth Chilton, Harpur College, and Prof. Peter Knuepfer, Geological Sciences. Prof. Karp expressed the tremendous amount of work that went into both these reports.

Prof. Sinclair thanked

faculty as they engage in teaching/research in these programs, and we need to set up areas for faculty development to focus on network-based mentoring. We need to look to senior faculty who work across disciplinary boundaries, and who can help navigate across these boundaries. How do we access evaluation to recognize transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary work when it affects the tenure and promotion process? Improvements in the process are needed to support the development for transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary programs. We need to look at the graduate level and take courses across department boundaries.

Dean Chilton outlined what has happened since the report. Deans and Directors have reviewed the major recommendations from both reports and have held many discussions about supporting transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary work in recruitment, incorporating this into the tenure and promotion process, and in program development. Creation of a template has been discussed for when we hire joint hires across departments, or of a possible MOU-type do

Prof. Sinclair questioned whether the temporary committee might add to its charge termination of a TAE? Was this discussed or decided? Introduction of a TAE and termination of a TAE is essential. Also, the composition of the steering committee needs to be regularized and more transparent. The faculty governance component needs to be introduced. We need faculty governance balance.

Prof. John Starks, Classical and Near Eastern Studies, noted that he was FSEC chair when both reports were done. How are problems addressed? He is glad that we are strengthening transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary programs to help all disciplines