

MINUTES OF  
FACULTY SENATE MEETING  
November 17, 2015

The second Faculty Senate meeting of the 2015-2016 academic year was called to order by Prof. Guzman at 11:47 am.

- a. Minutes After no discussion, the minutes of the September 29, 2015 meeting were approved as submitted.
  
- b. Obituary Notices Prof. Guzman notified the body that Distinguished Service Prof. Marilyn Gaddis Rose, Comparative Literature, and founder of Translation, Research, and Instruction Program (TRIP) passed away. Prof. Guzman asked for a moment of silence to remember our colleague. As is established practice, a note of condolence has been sent to the family on behalf of the Senate.
  
- c. New business
  - a. Congratulations to Prof. Elizabeth (Libby) Tucker, English, who was just promoted to Distinguished Service Professor.  
  
Prof. Sara Reiter, chair of EPPC, noted that the following three proposals have been approved by Graduate Council, EPPC, and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
  - b. TESOL MEd and M.A. These are for two degrees for teaching English as a second language. One degree is for those who need the certification to teach K through 12 in New York State and the other degree is for those who do not need that certification.
  - c. Educational Theory and Practice Ph.D. This is the addition of a research degree more in demand by our students.
  - d. Advanced Certificate on Community Schools This proposal comes from CCPA with strong ties to the Graduate School of Education. This is a 15-credit online certificate for people working in the area of community schools.

After no discussion, these programs were approved by a vote of 57 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

d. Reports

- a. Pamela Smart, University Faculty Senator

Prof. Smart reported on the SUNY University Faculty Senate plenary meeting held in Buffalo in October. Ms. Sara Wozniak, Professional University Senator also attended. Diversity was the theme and a workshop was held by Carlos Medina, Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Prof. Smart gave a synopsis of this workshop; details can be found on the SUNY University Faculty Senate website.

Chancellor Zimpher has adopted an Applied Learning Initiative in response to Governor

A SUNY task force on social media has prepared a set of recommendations for the SUNY Board of Trustees that includes wording implying a uniform curriculum in which students address social media responsibilities.

There are significant concerns about the SUNY budget. A bill has been submitted requiring the State to cover mandated salary increases and other required cost increases. It was stressed the legislators need to hear from us on the importance of maintenance of effort legislation.

The goal of increasing student enrollment has put significant pressure on classroom space and difficulties in offering seats that would enable students to graduate on time.

The Chancellor observed that SUNY construction needs are evaluated along with bridges and other state infrastructure priorities. While SUNY is lobbying, the circumstances for significant capital development are not auspicious.

Two resolutions were passed during this plenary session.

*Resolution on Academic Freedom* SUNY Faculty Senate urges each campus governance

of athletics such as tracking of special admits, communication between admissions and athletics, and hosting home basketball games during the weekend before finals. No decisions were made relative to this, but it was generally supported by IAC. The student representatives on the IAC said that the break would be welcome during study time.

Relative to the basketball games during finals, Prof. Guzman, Mathematics, asked why we give the students a break after finals. Pat Elliott, Director of Athletics, was asked to expand on that idea. Mr. Elliott told us that this was a new proposed item about scheduling. NCAA requires that we schedule 29 games (16 of which are conference games) and we fill in the other 13 games. Our conference, America East, handles the scheduling of conference games; we handle non-conference game schedules. This has become a concern due to the way the exam schedule falls; exams this year begin on Wednesday and finish on Tuesday with a weekend in between. To get the minimum number of games would have required us having three games in the first week of December. Athletics Academic Support was concerned about a

- 1) The BRC is involved with the President and the Provost on the roadmap process. We see the roadmap proposals very early and have active conversations, provide our rankings, and are involved in the final selections.
- 2) Our area of focus for this year is the reporting process. We review the expenditure report on the breakdown between divisions and units. We are now reviewing 2014/15; it takes six months to get the report. This report is a snapshot; we are working on a five-year plan to speculate on what the next two years will look like (projection).
- 3) Enrollments are not being met in some areas, creating deficits. We did not do well last year particularly due to the state versus out-of-state students and also the number of graduate students.

Prof. Jones noted that us engaging on issues is important.

Prof. Ricardo Laremont, Political Science, asked why we the disbursements report in real time. Prof. Jones noted that there is a variety of places where our money sits. About 5% are expenditures that trickle down through many areas (President/Provost/Dean/departments) and are hard to track.

e. Current Events at Missouri, Ithaca, Yale

Prof. Guzman reviewed some of the events that have taken place at universities throughout the country in the last week or so.

At the University of Missouri, football players threatened to boycott games until the president resigned over racial tension and high-profile racial incidents. At Ithaca College, two white male alumni called a black alumna a "savage" and called for the president to resign over inadequate response to racist incidents. University of Kansas student leaders called for the resignation of the chancellor over inaction on diversity demands; a graduate student went on a hunger strike in solidarity with student demands. At Claremont McKenna College, the junior class president resigned over photos of Halloween costumes and the Dean of Students resigned over remarks about "students who don't fit the CMC mold." At Yale, a "white girls only" remark was heard at a fraternity house and students presented a list of demands on diversity and inclusion to the president.

On the positive side, Smith College students held a demonstration in solidarity with Ithaca and Missouri. University of Oklahoma expelled two fraternity members and initiated a five-hour diversity training for all freshmen students. Here at Binghamton, our students marched in solidarity with Missouri and Ithaca, President Stenger put out a message from the administration, and the Student Association Board called for working together with campus leaders and the administration to build something new and better.

Prof. Guzman posed a couple of questions:

Should the Faculty Senate make a statement condemning the racial events at those schools mentioned above?

Should we, as part of campus leadership, respond to the call by the Student Association Executive Board?

Should we support the efforts of the administration to "create and sustain a campus that is welcoming and respectful of all persons"?

Should we ask that more be done, and participate in doing it?

Prof. Ricardo Laremont, Political Science suggests that we should sit down with students to find out exactly what is going on. We do not know what tensions students are experiencing. We can then move in a positive direction after that. Language is very important; we need to create a community by faculty leadership where people feel comfortable. This is not just about expression of ideas; it is about community and about a place where young people come (we are their family). We can change the dynamic of what we are about. Prof. Laremont suggests we invite a student delegation to discuss creating that type of community.

Delaware County. Students from Arabic speaking countries are extremely affected. Dialog about this is extremely critical.