

Tentative Agenda  
University Senate  
September 11, 2017

- I. Approval of tentative agenda
- II. Approval of minutes from May 1, 2017
- III. President's Report (E. Feldman)
- IV. Discussion on the Budget (S. Stanley, M. Bernstein, K. Kaushansky and R. Megna)
- V. UUP Report (C. Kube and K. Moriarty)
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business

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University Senate  
May 1, 2017  
Minutes

I. Approval of tentative agenda: approved.

II. Approval of minutes from April 3, 2017: approved.

III. President's Report (E. Feldman)

- UFS Spring Plenary: The University Faculty Senate in SUNY Canton for the Spring Plenary on April 20-22, 2017. This was Chancellor Zimpher's last meeting with the State-wide Senate. She has done a good job representing us in Albany. There are openings for the State-wide Senate committees which are self-nominations. Last year Stony Brook was not well represented, so I hope many of you will consider serving on a state-wide committee. Typically these State-Wide committees meet once in person in Saratoga Springs in September and then electronically throughout the year. I encourage your participation by completing the form that I sent you. The Report from this Plenary will be sent to you electronically.
- Outstanding Service: Since I've been your President, I try to honor the outstanding work being done by our Standing Committees. Every spring I ask that the committee chairs select someone from their committee whose work has been extraordinary and worthy of an award for outstanding service. Dr. Feldman and the Chairs handed out the Senate awards to Senate Standing Committee members for their outstanding service to the following:

2017 Senate Awards

Award Recipient	Nominated By	Committee

Marci Lobel	Tom Robertazzi & Iris Fineberg	Research Committee
Darlene Prowse	N. Goodman & Deb Dwyer	CAPRA
Andreas Koenig	Robert Kelly	Administrative Review
Cynthia Davidson	Dawn Pappas	Information Technology
Wendy Tang	Keri Hollander	Educational Services
Zahra Ebrahimi	Marcia Simon	Graduate Council
Robert Shrock	Stephen Koch	Library Services
Andrea Fedi	Teri Tiso	SPD Council
Steven Adelson	Christine Pitocco	Student Life
Hanna Nekvasil	Alan Tucker	Undergraduate Council
Can Ozturk	Bill Godfrey	University Affairs
John Sparano	John Robinson	University Environment

- A&S Senate: Dr. Feldman introduced Darren Chase who is the new President for the A&S Senate and thanked outgoing President Meg Schedel for her work on the A&S Senate.
- Bill Godfrey: Dr. Feldman announced that this is Bill Godfrey's last Senate meeting as he moves into retirement. He thanked Bill for his many years of service to the Senate. Bill received a standing ovation.

#### IV. Discussion with the President (S. Stanley)

- Bill Godfrey: President Stanley also thanked Bill Godfrey for his years of service to Stony Brook University calling him "truly an institution." The President noted Bill's accomplishments and service to the University and for his generous donations to the University.
- SUNY Chancellor: The new SUNY Chancellor is Christina Johnson who is a very distinguished engineer, a member of the National Academy of Engineering and has a distinguished academic career. She was a successful Dean of the School of Engineering at Duke University as well as Provost at Johns Hopkins University. She clearly understands research universities. It is a tough job to run SUNY. I admire her for taking on the challenge.
- The Stars of Stony Brook Gala set a record for attendance and for fundraising featuring Vice President Joseph Biden. There were 870 attendees and \$7M was collected for cancer research, the Cancer Center and for student scholarships.
- Thomas Allison has won the 2017 Discovery Prize which is based on finding talented young researchers at Stony Brook University who are doing cutting edge research which might not be funded by the National Science Foundation or the National Institutes of Health because it is simply too high risk. The cash prize is \$200,000 which was made possible by the Stony Brook Foundation to help fund his postdoctoral research.
- Budget: Key components of the NYS Budget for us was the provision of a \$200 tuition increase every year which is less than the allocated increases under SUNY 2020. This

increase is complicated by the passage of the Excelsior Program which provides free tuition for families making under \$125,000 per year. In theory it doesn't cost Stony Brook anything because the money is funded by a new allocation coming from the State to SUNY. Approximately 28,000 students who may be eligible. SB already have a number of students who are receiving free tuition through existing TAP and Pell Grants. Stony Brook covers the gap between TAP and what are tuition costs for families making under \$70,000 a year – the so-called TAP gap. Excelsior will not improve our budget. A “maintenance of effort” bill was passed which means that the State should maintain its State obligation, but they are not obligated to increase our budget. Negotiated pay raises are not reimbursed in our state allocation which has created a hole in our budget and has created a deficit in a number of units. Under Bob Megna's leadership and working with CAPRA, we've been asking Vice Presidents to present their budgets for their units.

- J. Sanders: We haven't heard about the impact on international students especially undergraduates. We heard there is a ten percent decline in graduate student international applications as a result of Washington's tightening on immigration, but with these student providing one third of the tuition revenue.

How is this going to affect us and what is the percentage of international students declining? Is there a pattern across the different countries?

S. Stanley: I haven't seen a breakdown by country. Countries under the immigration ban are a small proportion of to our undergraduate population. There is a decline international applications and about 50 deposits which may be secondary to immigration policy. That's my own belief. We've had direct communication with graduate students who have said they are electing not to come to Stony Brook and going to universities in Canada where they feel that their immigration policy is more rational. I don't have that kind of information for our undergraduates. There is a national trend for decline all across the country. Right now about 17% of the Stony Brook student population comes from international students. We set up a center for China under Jun Liu to help us reach to Chinese students.

- Ken: My understanding with regard to the Excelsior Program is that the student has to be enrolled in 30 credits per year, so theoretically that student can take three credits in the winter, 12 in the spring and 12 in the fall to qualify?

S. Stanley: Yes, that is my understanding too. There are a lot of restrictions around Excelsior. You have to take 30 credits a year, be a resident of New York, you have to maintain a certain GPA and you are obligated to stay in New York for three years after graduating. Ken: Could they take a summer class in Canton and transfer it to Stony Brook? S. Stanley: My guess is yes if it's within the SUNY system. There is \$162M allocated to support Excelsior.

- Question from the Floor about Budget: This has to do with the \$1.5M increase in costs because of the unfunded raises that we have. We were told that there were a few options available to us. One is to distribute the costs among multiple units, the other is suspend weaker programs which no one wants to do. The last one which is the one administration seems to be leaning is to make those

localized cuts. Why shouldn't the University units share the responsibilities for the shortfall? The shortfall is structural deficit that was not created by the departments which are at risk. It was created by the Governor's decision not to fund our raises which he put off for several years. How would a cut in money strengthen other programs like Theater Arts? How would that strengthen other programs and why should the future theater arts majors who live in NYS not be able to take that major that a flagship university of SUNY.

- S. Stanley: Individual units and Vice Presidential areas are making individual decisions to respond to this fiscal crisis. If there's a question about individual units, I'd ask either Dean Kopp or Provost Bernstein. However, the budget gap is more than \$1.5M. The overall deficit in Arts & Sciences and across the university is significantly higher. It's a structural and cumulative deficit. Under SUNY 2020 we made the decision to grow faculty numbers, to improve the student experience and to improve the quality of our research.

#### V. Discussion with the Provost (M. Bernstein)

- Budget: The College of Arts and Sciences is the largest academic unit on the West Campus. We have been engaging in a series of conversations about the budgetary challenges we face. Some of those are directly due to the salary increases. Others are due to longer term structural operating deficits and accumulated debt. All of these are part of an ongoing conversation between my office and the deans of the various academic units. The CAS departmental chairs, the Dean and I were engaged in some discussions about ways to start thinking about structural adjustment in the budget. Most recently the Dean has begun some discussions with department chairs as we have been formulating a working plan that we want to discuss with the department chairs. There was some public sharing of all of this information which generated much concern which I can completely understand. We are still working on a plan in CAS as well as the other colleges and schools. No final decisions have been made yet. If for example, we determine that suspending the undergraduate major in Theater Arts needs to be part of a final working plan, we would, of course, honor our commitment to all students in the Theater Arts major and teach them out so that they could finish their degrees. Whatever decisions we make are made with reference to opportunity cost. We have to make strategic choices. If we take a restricted array of resources and spread them across all of the units without asking ourselves about the strategy behind that we essentially will not be giving enough to any unit and in that respect, not furthering the development of that unit.
  - S. Marsh: Departments are vulnerable especially the Arts units. What you might be doing is cutting off an idea in the future that these units might exist. I think in the future these departments, especially Theater Arts, can be made quite vital.
  - M. Bernstein: We have a world class Music Department that is gasping for air right now. We have an array of excellence in the STEM areas as well as political science, and anthropology. These are world class programs. I am concerned that we not jeopardize their trajectory because if we do, we put at risk the

momentum that might simply allow us to build in other areas. We need to maintain an AAU trajectory.

- Question from the Floor: My fear is that we are going to become a trade school. M. Bernstein: I think to characterize us as a trade school is a little extreme given the vast array of things we already do and do very well. I understand that if, for example, we suspended the undergraduate major in Theater Arts, this would upset a lot of people. If that happens, permanent faculty in Theatre Arts would still have many opportunities to remain actively engaged in their own creative actively and collaboration with other units. We have to look at all of the implications.
- D. Dwyer: Conversation is a really important part of the process. This has been a very busy academic year for CAPRA and I am very proud of the members of CAPRA. Dean Kopp and Provost Bernstein have been meeting and consulting with us. The chairs have an invitation to speak with the Dean to provide information that maybe we don't have in the metrics. We don't make the decisions. Our role is to advise and to say that the process has been followed. The Administration is consulting with us and providing rationale for their proposals. They are not using purely quantitative metrics, but are also using qualitative metrics and they are willing to listen. N. Goodman: We are advisory. We look at the proposals and what their data are that support them and what the rationale is that uses that data to make those decisions.

#### VI. Discussion with the Vice President for Health Sciences (K. Kaushansky)

- Budget:
  - The School of Health Technology and Management has a significant budget gap that was developed about 5-6 six years ago. The graduate program was launched without a lot of investigation and study as to its sustainability. As a result, there have been huge losses accrued over that period of time. The Dean decided that one of the solutions to the budgetary shortfall was to suspend this graduate program. Students who were at the dissertation stage would be "taught out" and allowed to complete their degrees, but the other students who had not yet done all their course work were not going to be continued. I had a dialogue with the 17 students, and we came to the conclusion that we teach out every student in that program.
  - SB Hospital: I spoke about DISH at the last Senate meeting which is vital to the budget of the University Hospital. One of the critical missions of UH is to provide medical care for the underserved for which we receive from \$110M to \$140M which is comes from the State of New York and the Federal Government to compensate us for the losses in caring for Medicaid patients and patients with no insurance. This year the State of New York decided that they should cap the amount of DISH payments to the three SUNY University Hospitals. We are working with campus leadership, the Assembly and the Senate to try to advocate

for continued payments. This coming budget year UH would have been shorted \$62M if the proposed legislation had gone forward.

- The School of Nursing in collaboration with University Hospital just went through a very successful review of their Nursing Residency Program. We had an external review from the accrediting body and we passed with flying colors.
- The School of Pharmacy is getting documentation prepared for accreditation and will be submitting the paperwork this coming week.
- In the School of Social Welfare enrollment continues to grow.
- The School of Medicine has launched a new facility in Commack featuring more than 30 specialties and sub-specialties clinic. It is also the new home of the World Trade Center First Responders Clinic which just received a \$60M grant from the Federal Government.

J. Sanders: Can you update us on where you are with the review of the Dental School. Your transparency or at least willingness to talk to journalists is a model of what other Deans might want to emulate. This model is good for our student who learn to cover things here but go to be correspondents for the New York Times and the Daily News. The attitudes and the “stonewalling” that they run into in some parts of this university come back to them when they are asked to do a feature story at a university in New York and they don’t want to come here because they found such resistance to getting easy access to administrators or decision makers.

K. Kaushansky: I appreciate the comment. I did speak to the journalist who wrote a story recently about my external review of the Dental School. This “external review” was labeled an investigation by the reporter. I would not characterize it as that. It is an external review to evaluate our current strengths and weaknesses. I have enlisted three Deans of prominent dental schools around the country. They will be here in June. They will interview students, faculty and staff and they will put together a report that will help us move forward with the Dental Medicine. E. Feldman: What happens to that report when it’s issued? K. Kaushansky: It will be shared with President Stanley, myself and Dean Truhlar and it will provide a blue print for the School of Dental Medicine.

Question from the Floor: Are there any plans to be putting any rehab specialties into the HSC schools? K. Kaushansky: We have a rehabilitation medicine residency program that is housed in our GME program but most of the work is done in St. Charles Hospital. We do not have an active site on our campus. We are extremely starved for space.

Question from the Floor: A question was asked about layoffs of faculty. K. Kaushansky: I looked into that and there are a lot of UUP rules surrounding when people can be laid off if they are going to be non-renewed

## VII. Report from the VP for Research (R. Reeder)

- Research funding is the life blood for investigators at Stony Brook. Funding is accounted in different ways for sponsored programs. Most often we talk about research expenditures and those are monies that get spent during the year. For the last several years our sponsored program expenditures have not been doing very well, but there may be good news on the horizon. For nine months’ worth of data for FY 17, expenditures are predicted to increase by \$5-6M. The other metric that we report to the

National Science Foundation HERD survey which tends to be a year behind is that for FY15 we reported \$220M in total expenditures. We have increased this year by \$10M to \$230M.

- Two campus wide initiatives:

**Facilitating Researcher Success Project:** This was launched by President Stanley in 2016 to identify and eliminate administrative burdens that investigators face when they navigate all the processes that are necessary for conducting their research. There are many other offices, not just the Research Office, that are involved in supporting investigators. Nine task forces covering this whole spectrum of research activities have been working on improving the support services for researchers this since the fall starting with a campus wide survey to get feedback based on their own experiences. We received over 200 responses. We have a steering committee that has representation from all of the major academic areas providing guidance. The results fell in three different areas including simultaneous deadlines which can overwhelm services and problems with process. There may be procedures that we've had in place for a number of years that when you look at it objectively, you may not need to have all those steps involved. And the last area has to do with communications. It's can be difficult for an investigator to find out who is the right point of contact. Another issue has to do with customer service. We want to streamline the process. The goal is to get researchers and their support staff out of the administration and back into their research.

**myResearch (Huron's Click Portal Implementation):** Another significant initiative that will have a big impact on investigators is the interface investigators use to initiate and manage awards. We have had a lot of negative feedback on COEUS. We contracted with Huron Consulting Services to implement a new system called Click Portal Solutions as a replacement. We are introducing under the name of myResearch. This is now up and running. MyResearch will have six different modules in it.

VII. Announcement: E. Feldman: We are going to postpone the report from the Research Committee until the Fall because of the time.

VII. Old Business: none.

VIII: New Business: none.

Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by:

Laurie Cullen  
Secretary

