



- I. A motion to approve the agenda (Sanders/Torre) was carried.
- II. An approval of September minutes (and other outstanding minutes) was deferred until next meeting (with best wishes for speedy recovery to Laurie Cullen).
- III. **President's Report** (N. Tomes)
 - ◆ N. Tomes thanked Senators for attending and asking questions at the 9/10/18 meeting. We will continue to experiment with different formats to encourage participation. Today we will move to a closed session after the discussion and vote on the Diversity Requirement. There will be an inaugural Employee Training day on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 to promote a culture that supports diversity, equity and inclusion. This program was a response to requests from both students and faculty, including a committee of which she was a member.
- IV. **Discussion with University President** (S. Stanley). In addition to his written report, Dr. Stanley noted the following:
 - ◆ The State of the University address will be held on October 3, 2018 and will include new initiatives. He will discuss budgets and issues facing students and faculty.
 - ◆ He will attend the morning session of the Cultural Competency seminar and will welcome the afternoon session on October 9, 2018.
 - ◆ President Stanley attended the HeForShe IMPACT Summit. IMPACT 10x10x10 engages key decision makers in 10 governments, 10 corporations, and 10 universities around the world to drive change from the top. IMPACT Champions make gender equality and institutional priority. Some of the attendees included **Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah**, of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, award-winning actor and UN Women's Global Goodwill Ambassador, **Anne Hathaway**, and actor and activist **Winston Duke** as well as other world leaders, global CEOs, university presidents and activists to unveil groundbreaking solutions to achieve gender equality around the world President Stanley was on a panel and spoke about SBU's peer to peer programs. A new initiative "Know Before You Go" targets students heading off campus to parties. They are given business cards with six questions from fellow students that will help them think about safety issues. The cards also contain numbers for UPD and transportation.
 - ◆ CommUniversity Day was held on September 22, 2018 and was successful. It was combined with Family Day. 3,500 people attended.
 - ◆ Kathleen Byington will start on October 3rd as the new Sr. Vice President for Finance and Administration.
 - ◆ Questions: Moriarity asked about our fair share in the budget allocations for impending salary increases as the paybill was signed. S. Stanley stated we are working with DOB to get relief. SUNY is engaged on our behalf. Sanders inquired



about student debt concerns and the top three questions they might ask Zelden and Perry as they gear up for the upcoming elections. S. Stanley responded that issues on Pell Grants, continuation of research, regulations of “for profit” university and the rolling back of Title IX. Sanders questioned the President on signage of “No Guns Allowed on Campus.” S. Stanley noted that New York gun laws do not permit concealed weapons and that was sufficient for SBU whereas in other states where gun laws are less strict might make this a more prevalent concern.

V. **Discussion with the Provost** (M. Bernstein). Several transitions have occurred.

- ◆ In SPD, Ken Lindbloom stepped down as Dean of the School of Professional Development and Patricia Malone will assume duties of leading the SPD team. There are discussion in SPD on who to move the school forward. He has met with CAPRA on this issued and will continue to meet with them and keep them informed. Also Howie Schneider, founding Dean of the School of Journalism is stepping down.
- ◆ Undergraduate Enrollment planning for took place between the Deans and Enrollment Team to plan Fall 2019. As we grow enrollment, we must anticipate student need. There was also budget meetings with lead academic units.
- ◆ Questions/Comments: F. Walter asked if Malone’s assignment was different than that of an interim Dean. M. Bernstein stated it was slightly different. T. Tiso questioned why the Senate’s SPD committee, of which she is chair, was not informed. The Provost said that was an oversight and Malone would be consulting with that committee. L. Huddy would like to see the role of the School of Journalism connecting better with other facets of campus. Sanders agreed that Journalism needs an inter-disciplinary approach and that more integration with other units is welcomed.

VI. **Report from Leo Bachmair, Co-Chair of Undergraduate Council.** A proposal for new diversity requirement to be added to the Stony Brook Curriculum (general education requirements for undergraduates on East and West campus) was discussed.

- ◆ A survey was conducted in January and February 2018 to determine how many existing courses would satisfy proposed DIV learning outcomes. There were 41 responses from about 75 departments and programs.
- ◆ 195 courses were identified that could satisfy at least one outcome.
- ◆ 155 courses could meet the proposed standard of satisfying at least two outcomes.
- ◆ Of these 155 courses, 108 have been offered since Fall 2014 (41 lower division and 67 upper division).
- ◆ Total capacity in these 108 courses ranged from 2992 to 4350 seats per semester.
- ◆ Unused capacity ranged from 274 to 1146 open seats per semester.

A motion to accept the Undergraduate Council's report was moved (Sanders/Moriarity) and passed.

Discussion of the motion:

Questions were asked: How much burden will it be on students w/ new requirement? What will be the impact on the graduation rate? Has a simulation been run? Answers: L. Bachmair noted that this new requirement will be added to already existing courses. It will not require more course hours to be completed and thus will have no negative effect on time to completion of the degree. A concern was raised that this requirement mandates opinion and behavior. Should SBU have these types of requirements that "impose thinking"? N. Tomes replied that in fact the objectives and standards for the DIV requirement were not all that different from other SBC requirements, which also aim to teach students how to think about data and values. There was agreement that these courses have to be empirically grounded so that they are not just opinion driven. Another concern was raised about whether it was possible to identify courses that meet DIV requirements quickly enough that it can go into effect by Fall 2019. Plans were being made to expedite this process so that the Curriculum Committee could do so in a timely fashion.

After this discussion, the motion was made to approve the DIV requirement. Only Senators were allowed to vote. The Senate approved adding the new DIV requirement by a vote of 47 yes, 1 no, and 7 abstentions. (ck #s)

At this point, the Senate moved to a closed session of Senators, members of Standing Committees, and faculty and staff.

VII. Report from Executive Committee on questions submitted to our survey, and how to use them.

As part of our town hall meeting format, we created a google document with three questions:

1. What are the two most important issues that you'd like your University Senate to focus on this year?
2. How can the Senate better connect with the constituencies it represents?
3. How can we get more people involved in the Senate?

We received twenty-five detailed responses via the Google document, and two more via email (from people who wished to remain anonymous.) Here are a few issues that pop out when you read the comments.

In answer to the question, what are the most important issues for the Senate to address, we got comments along these lines.

1. A big need at Stony Brook is more transparency about budget issues and the master plan for growth. Commentators raised this about specifics (how much

- did the Far Beyond campaign cost) and the big picture (what really caused the 2017 fiscal crisis?). The balance between spending on administrative vs. academic spending at SBU is out of kilter. The Senate needs to pressure the administration to provide more and better budget information.
2. There is a sense that in recent years, relations between administrators, faculty, and staff have deteriorated. A more top down model has been imposed that leads to bad decision making on the ground. The Senate needs to advocate strongly for more respect for faculty and staff input.

Second, in answer to the questions about how to serve our constituencies and get more people involved in Senate activities, we got comments along these lines.

1. A lot of people don't understand what the Senate is and what it's supposed to do. We need to do more explaining about what shared governance is and how it works through the various Senate bodies.
2. There's a sense that the Senate is ineffective so one's time is better spent elsewhere. To reverse that sentiment, the Senate has to be more visible and assertive.
3. To reinvigorate the Senate, open up the meetings to more people and don't have the same people talk all the time. Also post contact information for each Senator so that people can reach out to them.

One tactic might be to sort them out by topic and send to the relevant administrator and Senate standing committee for response. For example, the budget related ones could be sent to CAPRA.

Among the specific suggestions for action were the following:

1. Have an orientation session for new Senators.
2. Ask for a detailed accounting of the exception process during the current hiring freeze.
3. Ask for more detailed fiscal reports for each university unit, with break down by source (state, grants/contracts/clinical practice plans)
4. Document the impact of unfilled positions in university offices.

This exercise produced some very good questions and comments. What should we do with them? Some suggestions: Curate and forward questions to the appropriate Administrator and Senate Standing Committee. For example, the budget related ones would go to the President and the new VP for Finance, and to CAPRA. The suggestions for improving Senate outreach would go to the President and the Executive Committee for action.

A question for us to consider: what's the right standing committee to consider morale issues or the decay of shared governance?

Lastly, should we set up a permanent question box so anyone in the campus community can ask questions in the future?



Discussion: People don't get involved because the Senate has not power, seen as wasting time. E. Feldman state "No power does not mean no influence. Our job is to articulate an argument." Senate Committees is where influence happens. Fear of retribution was listed as an issue.

VIII. **Report from Rob Kelly, Administrative Review Committee:** What does the latest Senate survey tells us about faculty and staff perceptions of the University Senate?

Full survey findings concerning the Senate are in general agreement with the recent limited survey initiated by the senate.

Important Issues (based on quantity of responses, and +/- score)

1. Building/classroom maintenance
2. Free parking
3. Office of the President
4. Office of the Provost
5. Effectiveness of the Senate

Senate effectiveness

- ◆ Overall negative (240/355) – no basis for opinion was the highest total (565)
- ◆ Issues also with unit governance since approximately 20% selected other as the governing unit
- ◆ College governance effectiveness was slightly negative (232/378) with 514 opting for no basis
- ◆ Large number of "no basis for opinion" indicates a general lack of understanding of governance among faculty and staff
- ◆ The "Senate reps reporting back to departments" measure was slightly positive (379/325) with 424 as no basis
- ◆ The PEG Board measure was slightly negative (49/109) with a large no basis (969)

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m. due to testing in the HSC LH6.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Wolfskill –University Senate Secretary/Treasurer

Approved _____