University Senate Minutes  
Oct. 7, 2019, 3.30-5 PM  
MART Building Auditorium

Note: at the request of our Southampton colleagues and with assistance from the UUP West Campus Communication Committee, this meeting was live-streamed.

I. Approval of tentative agenda: approved  
10-7-19 Agenda

II. Approval of Sept. 2019 minutes: approved  
9-9-19 Minutes

III. Welcome from University Senate President, Nancy Tomes, who announced she is not seeking reelection since she will be taking her final sabbatical. Nominees will be announced at the November 4th University Senate meeting and the election will be at the December 2nd meeting.

IV. Discussion with Interim President Michael Bernstein.  
- Provided information about SBU’s decrease in US News rankings due to the high cost of living compared to salaries. All NY metro colleges/universities went down on average 10 points. LI colleges/universities on average went down over 20 points.  
- Stony Brook is still the highest ranked state institution in New York State. Read his entire report here: October President’s Report

Q: J. Sanders asked what suggestions could be given to Gov. Cuomo considering endorsements for college athletes since California’s Gov. Newsom opened the way for college athletes to hire agents and make money from endorsement deals just like the pros.  
A: Pres. Bernstein - Earth moving for NCAA - we are all awaiting further steps from them. This action could end up in litigation. The law could mean California Institutions will disqualify for competition.  
Q: J. Sanders – There is no prohibition against gambling online for college sports teams - what should be our policy now that its online?  

V. Discussion with Interim Provost Minghua Zhang

His goal: Prioritizing student success - graduation rate for 4 and 6 year graduations has gone up 14% over the last 5 years. Social mobility ranked #3 across all universities in the country - SBU #1 among AAU universities. Important to have resources for faculty regarding research and scholarship.  
Read his entire report here: October Provost’s Report
VI. Discussion with Senior Vice President for the Health Sciences Kenneth Kaushansky

The Cancer Center is having an External Advisory Board meeting, then going up for certification. Now has over 17 million in external funding.

- The athletic training program now has a masters program.
- School of social welfare moved from 71st to 51st in rankings.
- SBUH healthcare system - children's hospital opens 11/17. SBUH expanding even more in Commack to double its current capacity.

Q: Unnamed Senator asked about plans for expanding East campus parking.
A: Working with K. Byington, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration, to build a new structure to accommodate 1500-2000 cars, either on the north side of HSC or East side. Still figuring out finances to make it happen.

Q: Unnamed Senator asked K. Kaushansky about incoming student diversity in the medical school, which has remained stagnant for 40 years for African American students.

A: Diversity is improving every year. 17-18% incoming are People of Color. Faculty too are getting more diverse - HSC is in the 79th percentile for women. 68th percentile for underrepresented folks. Kaushansky charged Admissions to increase consideration in these areas.

VII. Q and A with members of the Presidential Search Committee, moderated by members of the Senate Executive Committee. The entire committee was not invited, only students, faculty and staff representing our constituency. Faculty elected by secret ballot done at end of August. Staff and students chosen by Kevin Law, search chair.

- New MD added as Chancellor’s representative to ensure clinical perspective.
- 7 of the committee were in attendance. They have signed confidentiality agreements about the search process:
  - Brooke Ellison - SHTM - Assistant prof.
  - Joshua Dubnau - prof. Neurobiology and Anesthesiology
  - Mark Aronoff - Linguistics
  - Celia Marshik - Chair, English
  - Axel Dress - Chair, Physics
  - Xiaoqing Zhang - PhD student, School of Health Technology and Management
  - Latha Chandran - Pediatrics faculty

Note: Questions were asked that were submitted online and were read by volunteers from the Executive Committee. Also questions were asked from the floor.

K. Wilson asked who is the search firm being used?
A: Issacson, Miller. They are a new firm for SBU. So far we are impressed

M. Bowman asked: What qualities is the committee looking for?
A: Diversity valued by a leader. Want evidence, data, that these candidates have a demonstrated record of, commitment to, and action in relation to many qualities, especially diversity. Someone committed to faculty governance & academic excellence. Someone who will hear students voices,
involve students in decisions that impact them. Someone who can bring our diverse community together.

Q: Infrastructure: 30 years ago Stony Brook was appropriately sized. Since then we have doubled in students and size but infrastructure has not. The next president needs to understand that we can’t solve this by increasing the student body. Dorms, research spaces, parking, etc need to grow as well. Members of council don’t know this, you do since you work here.
A: Challenges LI faces are issue here too. We will keep this in mind.

Q: Tom Wilson: Dig into references to find truth since most people present well when saying they are committed to shared governance and consensus building.
A: Mark Aranoff - we need data and real evidence to demonstrate that the candidate is a collaborator, and has evidence they will collaborate. Axel Drees- we are all committed to doing due diligence.

Q: There are unique differences between east and west campus. Will there be an effort to unify east and west, while maintaining their uniqueness?
A: Diversity is also in our programs. We all recognize the importance of collaboration and many perspectives. While Nicolls road bisects us, we need to work better to overcome this. It is a challenge and an opportunity we haven’t taken advantage of as much as we might.

Q: K. Wilson - SB is at a huge crossroads with 2 more important searches coming up - this model will impact the Provost and Dean searches. We need someone who pays attention to faculty and students’ needs. We can’t repeat the last 5 years.
A: Axel Drees - we are aware of this importance, that's why we are sitting here. Josh - we value that SBU is an intellectual enterprise focused on research, scholarship, diversity, and teaching.

Q: Please keep professionals in mind - we are 15% of the senate. We need a leader who will improve the climate for staff. We are the first to be cut, and not replaced. There is no clear path for career advancement, which needs to change, and we need to hold managers accountable for those who don’t satisfy what is expected from them.
A: The staff person on this committee is not here, but we will keep this in mind.

Q: J. Sanders - The largest demographic here is Undergrads. The person hired may be a good fundraiser or research accolades, but dig into student newspapers - find their record so we don’t repeat mistakes. Make sure you do your research so Undergrads aren’t exploited.
A: We will seek a student friendly president, do our research. Will keep in mind some people stay on as grad students too. Will consult with our undergrad rep.

Q: Fred Walter - Candidates for this position 5 years ago reminded us we are part of SUNY, it holds us back, in my opinion, from achieving true excellence. We want to see a president go toe to toe with chancellor and trustees and fight for our unique needs, those diff from other 4 years schools. We need an advocate for SBU against SUNY as needed.
A: Mark Aronoff: when we had our first meeting a couple of weeks ago, the Chancellor made the time to attend in person, which was strong indication this is an important search.
Q: E. Feldman - read online Q - President Stanley didn’t embrace shared governance and never sought out the advice of the University Senate on policy issues or difficult decisions. How do we assure the candidates have a deep commitment to shared governance and a solid track record? How can that be measured?
A: Chandran - we will do an interview process to gauge depth and commitment. Celia - we will look at data and look extensively at their track record. Brooke - The importance of this issue has been made very clear to us, we will do our best.

Q: M. Bowman - How many more people can we cram onto this campus without destroying its beauty?
A: J. Dubnau joking stated “we will consider Greta Thunberg for President.” Brooke - we know bigger isn’t better and will keep that in mind.

Q: As a result of prior admin decision making processes and policies, morale suffered. What will you have this candidate answer for morale related issues?
A: C. Marshik - we can speak to this problem clearly, that's why we were elected. Xiaoqing - if they are practicing shared governance these won’t be issues. Mark - we all understand how fraught the circumstances are. Josh - we all recognize the search is very important and morale depends on this search to find a good leader committed to shared governance. Brooke - this is an opportunity to do something good, that hadn’t been done before.

Q: From the Senate Executive Committee: The 7 faculty elected represent specific schools but also need to think about SBU as a whole. How are you thinking about that challenge?
A: We have been impressed with the fact that none of us elected to the committee is looking out only for their area. CAS is an ecosystem, and so is the university. We are all looking out for each other. We were elected by the entire faculty, not just our subgroup. Xiaoqing - will have a town hall for grad students to have their voice heard. Brooke - we are keeping the future in mind.

- N. Tomes asked the Search Committee Member how can we help you moving forward? Let us know.

VIII. UUP Report (C. Kube and E. Quinn)
Carolyn Kube, HSC Chapter President.
- Discretionary money decided around now for all UUP members, East and West Campus. It will be paid at the end of December. 1% of all salaries, half (.5) of which goes towards salary compression. Regression analysis will be used to formulate things. Campuses will begin their own analysis.
- Folks can get money from both pots - if depressed and/or at the discretion of management.
- Pre-retirement workshops happening in November.
- Open enrollment time - dependent care, health flex spending, and NYSHIP

Ed Quinn, West Campus Chapter President.
- Our chapter Newsletter went out this AM. It has upcoming events, new officers and delegate list too. We are having a Town Hall on the 22nd & we want to hear issues we can bring forward.
We are working closely with HSC and Carolyn to advocate as 1 campus. There will be a general membership meeting on 10/17. Member benefits workshop will be held on 10/29 in the Poetry Center. We now have an office in Southampton with office hours.

IX. Old Business - None

X. New Business

N. Tomes stated that a Statewide Alternate delegated needed University Senate approval to attend the upcoming University Faculty Senate Plenary. A motion to approve Martin Koczocha from Anesthesiology was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution on the floor regarding the Ashley Schiff Park Preserve was presented by University Senator, Tom Wilson, SOMAS. The resolution called for the University Senate to formally endorse permanent preservation as ‘forever wild’. He noted local legislators are working on legislation to add it as a formal NYS park. A similar effort almost succeeded 10 years ago. Upon getting a senate endorsement we will take it to the administration. UUP member M. Bowman seconded the resolution and stated that the Preserve was surveyed as a biological preserve 50 years ago. Right now it could be paved tomorrow with the stroke of a pen. We need it to protect it. Think of it as SBU Central Park.

*Motion to approve the resolutions carried.*

Final announcements:
Club red coming up - 10/11 4:30 PM. And 10/18 4:30 PM in Simons Café.
J - Sanders announced a need for athletic issues raised earlier to have senate look into.

Motion to adjourn carried at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Wolfskill
University Senate Secretary/Treasurer