

University Senate Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2020, 3:30-5:00 PM (Zoom Meeting)

Meeting called to order by Dr. Richard Larson, the University Senate President, at 3:30 PM. Meeting recording can be viewed [here](#). A motion to approve the agenda and the minutes from October 5, 2020 carried.

Greetings from Richard Larson, University Senate President

- Announced passing of Larry Swanson, former Associate Dean of SoMAS and asked M. Bowman to speak about Larry's contribution to the university.
- Introduced Brooke Allison to provide Plenary report.

Plenary Report from Brooke Allison, SUNY Statewide Senator

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Attended the Plenary meeting for the first time.
- The first Plenary meeting of the newly appointed SUNY Chancellor, Jim Malatras.
- SUNY Chancellor's election did not follow the particular protocol.
- Concerns were made that shared governance was not being upheld the way it should have been in his election and will not tolerate the pandemic as an excuse to make decisions without transparency on a regular basis.
- Chancellor talked about:
 - Testing students for Covid-19.
 - Returning to campus desires from faculty and students.
 - Diversity, racial equity and social justice.
- Discussions made about:
 - Number of SUNY senators from Stony Brook University and Buffalo University.
 - If Health Science Center itself can be designated as an academic unit.
 - Concerns about the future with the pandemic.

Report from President Maurie McInnis

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
 - Enhancing SBU Research performance:
 - Need packages that are attractive to faculty and students.
 - Add scholarships support to cover fees for terminal degree graduate students.
 - Revise program structures that slow down graduation.
 - Providing students with the professional development opportunities to pursue the careers.
 - Launching financial sustainability steering committee and the five focused task forces containing more than 120 faculty and staff. These groups will continue meeting weekly until April.

- Need to be creative in coming up with ways to generate new revenue.
- Be much more efficient in using the revenue that we currently have.
- Working with Chancellor and State to get support.
- Stop the spread of division and hostility and respect different views and support one another.
- Students need in person connections and are willing to have in person learning experience.
- Encouraged faculty to create more sense of community in their classrooms and help students connect with each other, and with resources available if stressed.
- Encouraged stressed faculty and staff to connect with resources available.
- Current focus is on Spring semester rather than next Fall due to pandemic.
- The short-term task force to rename buildings is only developing a process.
- \$40 million in paid endowment payout as well as gift money flows from Stony Brook Foundation to the university in order to support student scholarships for both undergraduate and graduate students, and support schools and faculty.

- Question: P. Gergen - Will the tuition support for research grants be expected to cover the increase in student fees as well?
 - Answer - Over time, that is absolutely what we should be doing.

- Question: J. Sanders: What is the percentage of faculty minorities? what is the plan for students who have trouble in on-line education and its effect on finishing in four years?
 - Answer: We will provide you the number. We are concerned and have worked closely with students to make sure they have hardware and internet. So, I'm very worried about the retention and success of our students. We will report to senate in the next month meeting as we get more data on how our students are progressing.

Report from Rose Martinelli, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives

- PowerPoint can be viewed [here](#).
- The financial sustainability phase two part of the project was launched on the first week of October and will meet weekly through the end of April.
- Engaged More than 120 faculty and staff. Five task forces while they look discrete actually have a huge amount of overlap
- A collaborative strategic process focused on identifying short term and long-term opportunities to improve our financial position.
- Working on fixing policies that divides university as two campuses and keep us from being innovative.

- Finished step one, definition and design phase.
- Operations improvements and degree/non-degree oriented new programs are parts of step two.
- Step three is analysis and validation.
- Looking into short term, midterm, and long-term opportunities and projects.
- Step four is implementation.
- Along the way communication is incredibly important and will be working closely with the University Senate and other leadership across the campus to make sure that you know what's going on.

- Question: M. Bowman – There is no representatives from College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, so how will concerns be brought to the committee?
 - Answer – In the first stage we're beginning to identify the areas of focus. We're putting together smaller working groups that are beginning at each of the task forces to select the opportunities for these working groups and that's one of them that has already been identified.

- Question: K. Lindblom – Are we to expect some quite momentous decisions about recommendations to be made by March 31 and then those will be taken up vigorously?
 - Answer –. There won't be any major surprises, you're going to know what we're working on.

Interim Provost Sotiropoulos's Report

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- Deeply saddened by Larry Swanson's passing.
- Introduced Rachelle Germana as Interim Vice Provost for curriculum and undergraduate education.
- Election memo that Student Affairs and my office shared with the faculty focused on:
 - Available to faculty and students to deal with the stress and emotional engagement that this election season might be bringing on all of us.
 - Highlighted the need for faculty to reach out to students to emphasize the importance of voting.
 - Faculty be more mindful as they plan for assignments and exams over the coming weeks.
 - Make sure faculty are willing and open to foster inclusive classroom conversations.
 - Employee wellness programs will start Nov 4th.
 - Student affairs are providing an extensive array of resources and events to support students.
- Honorlock system is live and available:
 - Will talk to students regarding their concerns about the Honorlock.

- Conducting mid-term assessment of teaching to collect data about the online teaching/learning experience.
- Stony Brook film festival is online and important for supporting Staller center.
- Faculty achievements:
 - Conference in the machine learning world.
 - 7 Stony Brook papers were accepted in the prestigious neural information processing systems conference.
 - Received \$2.1 million award from Sea Grant research.
- Question- A. Lewis, Statesman – Mr. Robbins leaving was sudden, is the university going to give a reason for leaving?
 - Answer – This was a decision of his choosing to step down and return to his role as a faculty after 11 years of service.
- Question- K. Hollander – Students have technology challenges in use of Honorlock, Zoom, etc, how that can be addressed?
 - Answer – We need to be mindful of these challenges for our students.

Sr. VP for Health Sciences Dr. Kenneth Kashansky

- Full written report can be viewed [here](#).
- The hospital has made tremendous preparations in preparation for phase two of Covid-19:
 - PPE stockpiling.
 - Have a robust plan for providing sufficient beds of all level of acuity.
 - The big hurdle is staffing, if we get a magnitude.
 - A very low census of Covid-19 presently.
- Renaissance SOM is securing a large number of NIH and national science foundation grants.
- Meetings designed to create action plans to enhance diversity and inclusion in the schools.
- The School of Nursing is participating in national dialogues on overdue reckoning on racism in Nursing.
- School of Social Welfare working on programs for diversity and inclusion.
- SHTM received a presidential mini grant for its LGBTQ workshops for healthcare, faculty, staff, and students.
- National search for new dean of the School of Social welfare.
- Question – S. Sharma: I work in a community of faculty members who support each other in our publication and all are women except for two. I was wondering if we should just be aware of the discrepancy in our achievement?
 - Answer – I do not have an answer for you. I will ask and let you know.
- Question – R. Larson: Please provide a quick summary of where we are with saliva testing on campus.
 - Answer – We've been testing west campus resident students for a while. Will launch for the east campus starting Nov 18th.

- Question- M. Rafailovich: Does scholars in medicine program involve more minority and diversity in that program?
 - Answer - Scholars in medicine is a program designed to bring promising Stony Brook University undergrads. It's an eight-year program and students don't have to maintain 3.9 average or ace the M-CAT. We are asking main campus registrar and admissions and student Office to identify students of color after their freshman year who are doing well and are interested in field of Medicine. We interview to accept them.

Reports from UUP:

- Carolyn Kube:
 - Seated delegates in either of the chapters should have gotten statewide election ballots and must mail them at least five to seven days prior to Nov 25th deadline.
 - Chapter elections will be next year.
 - If you want to run for chapter elections, look out for that. It's all self-nomination.

- E. Quinn:
 - Women's rights and concerns committee meeting, human rights workshop, and pre-retirement workshop will happen in November.
 - We sponsor a virtual rally on November 10th on stock transfer tax to be reinstated in the state of New York to help fill the budget.

Old Business

- None

New Business:

- None

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.