



Stony Brook University

Arts & Sciences Senate
Minutes for September 14, 2020
3:30PM - 5:00PM
Virtual Meeting

Attendance:

1. **Call To Order** (3:34 pm)

2. **Acceptance of the Agenda**

The Chair called for the approval of the meeting agenda. A question was raised.

Question from Norm Goodman: Why is the Dean (of Arts & Sciences) not on the agenda? The Dean should be at every meeting as the President and Provost are at the University Senate meetings.

Answered by Jason Torre: Noted, and the A&S EC will reach out to all the Deans to schedule their participation in future meetings.

3. **Standing Committee Report: Promotion and Tenure Committee-J Presentation**, Trevor Sears, Chair [PTC-J Report](#).

The PTC-J considered 26 cases for promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor (14 of Humanities and Fine Arts, 6 from Natural Sciences, 5 from Social and Behavioral Sciences, 1 from SoMAS). Trevor took the opportunity to thank the members of the committee listed on the report.

4. **Opening Remarks** - F. Jason Torre, Arts & Sciences Senate President

A. Jason welcomed all and, on behalf of the Senate EC, stated how happy they are to see everyone this academic year. This agenda is focused on Promotion and Tenure, to address things left unsettled from last session. He recognized Nazanin Karimi, the new Senate Staff Assistant, and Liz Fish who will serve out the remainder of the A&S Senate Secretary term. Fred Walters will serve as Parliamentarian.

B. A moment of recognition was awarded to the admin, staff, faculty and students, to thank them for all that has been done over the past months (pandemic): From the Executive Committee, thank you for your service, your dedication, your commitment to the University and the commitment to this body (A&S Senate).

5. **Approval of February 2020 Meeting Minutes**

[Feb 2020 Minutes](#).

Norm Goodman, referring to item 14, clarified his concern that the Dean has been asking departments to come up with ideas to increase revenue. The Dean's office has 4-5 people employed in the field of advancement, in addition to Advancement specialists in general Admin, whose responsibility it is to do just that.

Motion to accept minutes was approved by acclamation.

6. **Introduction of Officers**

Peter Khost (Past President) sends regards from his sabbatical; Senator-At-Large position is still open; Liz Fish (Secretary); Marie Huffman (Academic Judiciary Committee) pitched to send ideas or concerns regarding academic integrity, especially concerning online environment, by email to either her or Jason; Reuben Kline (Academic Standing and Appeals); Gabrielle Russo (Curriculum Committee); Fred Walter (Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Policies); Joanne Davila (Promotion and Tenure Committee); Khadija (VP of Academic Affairs, USG). The GSO position is still under election.

7. **Standing Committee Report: Promotion and Tenure Committee-S Presentation,**

Joanne Davila, Chair [PTC-S Report](#).

The PTC-S acted on 14 cases for promotion to full professor, 6 new hires with tenure, and 3 cases promoting to associate professor with tenure to assist the PTC-J due to their overload. They consulted with Jason on preparation of library PTC files, with the A&S Senate and Provost Office about the extension of the tenure class due to the pandemic, on creating an independent SOMAS PTC, and with the Provost Office about diversity, equity and inclusion considerations in the academic review process.

8. **SOMAS Promotion and Tenure Committee Presentation/Voting,** Dean Paul Shepson

1. Reference was made to the [Minutes](#) of September 16, 2019.
2. Dean Shepson gave a summary of the history of the process to gain PTC independence from A&S. In 2017, SOMAS decided to make the proposal, which was subsequently voted against. Revisions were made and then tabled and stalled for a year. In joining SOMAS in 2018, he took the issue up again by discussing it with the Provost who showed support. In March 2019 a draft document was sent to the two A&S PTC's and the FFRPC. Amendments were made per suggestions and in September 2019 he made a new presentation to the A&S Senate. The intention is not to divorce SOMAS from the A&S Senate in respect to academic governance nor disregard SOMAS's intimate connection to the departments in A&S and the Curriculum Committee's ties to their own programs. Objectivity is ensured by the department being separated from the PTC process with self-nominations to the SOMAS PTC being welcome. In November 2019 a vote on version 20 of the document was held resulting in 23 accepted /13 rejected/2 abstained and the motion carried. It was then brought

before the A&S Senate which then shared the document with UUP. Article 33 of the UUP contract was addressed and adapted to fit within the current structure of SOMAS, with 8 elected members who will rotate off.

Question: Joanne Davila asked how they plan to find outside members for the PTC committee.

Answer: SOMAS Faculty will nominate potential members.

Question: Mark Aronoff asks how participation of the membership in earlier deliberations will work.

Answer: SOMAS PTC members will have no involvement in the process until the files arrive at the PTC.

Question: Marie Hoffman offered a respectful comment that faculty referrals would deter objectivity, but A&S would be a good option as a first call for help.

Answer: The sentiment and the offer to help were appreciated.

Question: Norm Goodman expressed concern about colleagues participating in the PTC process.

Answer: Emphasis was made that those on the PTC will not participate in any of those discussions.

9. **A vote to accept the establishment of a separate SoMAS Promotion & Tenure Committee and it's divestiture from A&S's PTC obligations was held and passed by a majority.** See proposed bylaws changes (PTC Membership), [here](#).

Agreed:16 Rejected:6 Abstained:5

10. **A vote was taken to change the PTC bylaws by eliminating section 8.A.5 (the requirement for one representative from SoMAS).**

Agreed:26 Rejected:0 Abstained:0

11. **Elections of Vice President/President Elect**

Seeing no objections from the floor, by acclamation, the chair directs the secretary to enter a single vote on behalf of the body, electing Dr. Lindblom VP/President - elect.

12. **Old Business:** no old business.

13. **New Business:** Norm Goodman asks about COVID cases on campus. The dashboard was referred to.

14. **Adjournment: 4:28 pm**