



Stony Brook University

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

1. Call to Order 3:30PM
Meeting recording can be viewed [here](#).
2. Acceptance of the Agenda
The motion to accept the agenda is carried.
3. Approval of November 2020 Meeting [Minutes](#):
The approval of the November 9, 2020 minutes is carried.
4. Address of Interim Provost F. Sotiropoulos:
 - a. Sincere thanks to everyone for the great job in adapting to the pandemic, maintaining the standard of teaching that SBU students have come to expect throughout all the stress and economic challenges.
 - b. As the Interim Provost, will work with the university community to make decisions to become more productive and efficient, generate more revenue, and create new programs.
 - c. Task forces have been created across the board to figure out how to combat the challenges the pandemic has created without resorting to pay cuts and other measures used by other universities.
 - d. We need to communicate to the State that SBU and UB, as the 2 public AAU universities in the SUNY system, need to be considered in a special light.
 - e. Covid has put us on an exciting fast track for change, toward a more holistic, global and empathic approach to higher education, job markets and society.

Question- N. Goodman: Because of the cuts over the years, we have reduced the disciplinary base level that is absolutely essential for interdisciplinary research. The cake has to be firm before we can add the icing on.

Answer- The key ingredient to do interdisciplinary research is excellent faculty. We can flourish despite the budget challenges because of SBU's capital of intellectual excellence. In the College of Engineering, despite the budget issues, we started vertical integrated projects with the School of Medicine and the sciences.

N.Goodman: Size matters, the number of faculty we have has been reduced to the extent that it deters from what we can achieve.

Answer- I agree. I feel we have to take the critical mass of excellence that we can build on and get out of this.

Question- M. Bowman: University Center members had not been consulted about moving from Google to Microsoft. The impact is not just on Stony Brook, but on our national and international collaborations. What can you share with us?

Answer – I felt this is a decision that needed a little more time. With this issue we're taking a step back, there is a task force that has been put in place. I think I can assure you that no decision will be made without having an opportunity to have a thorough discussion.

5. [Report](#) of the Academic Judiciary Committee (M. Huffman)

Question – N. Goodman: How many faculty courses are using Honorlock? What specific problems have emerged because of Honorlock.

Answer – F. Sotiropoulos: I don't have the data. It is one option and not mandatory. Students are concerned about privacy. There is a FAQ site that answers questions from students.

Comment - A. de Laurentiis: Humanities exams include essay writing which make these exams excruciatingly difficult.

Comment - M. Bowman: We were able to create a unique data set for each student so that cheating could be detected.

6. [Presentation](#) of Provost's Office Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Promotion and Tenure Proposal (Vice Provost S. Bhatia):

Comment - J. Pierce: The university has continued to devalue faculty of color, particularly those with marginalized intersecting identities for a long time and continues to claim that it has diversity, equity, and inclusion at heart. It needs to become the cornerstone of what we are doing rather than an addendum.

Comment - A. de Laurentiis: A reason I see the need for change is that I see very talented students of color who happened to be from harsher economic backgrounds who cannot obtain a PhD because of the fact that our master's programs are not financially supported.

7. Old Business: no old business

8. New Business: A&S Committee on Committees [Presentation](#) and Comment Solicitation (K. Lindblom):

- Usually, a committee on committees is just a committee of people who determine who's on what other committees, but in this case, we're imagining a committee that is actually dedicated to advocating for the importance of shared governance.
- We also need to advocate for official recognition of service to shared governance not just by awards, but by stipends.

Comment - N. Goodman: I'm very strongly opposed to stipends because service is part of our job as faculty. I think paying somebody to do what they should be doing anyway is not the way for us to go.

Comment - J. G. Graham: Underrepresented groups are already asked to do more than their share because of who they are and because there are fewer of them. It is not unreasonable to offer them compensation.

Comment F. Walter: The scale would be based on the work required of Senate Presidents and some Chairs, not for all senators.

Call for Old Business. No members raised any issues.

Chair called for adjournment.

Adjournment: 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Fish
A&S Senate Secretary