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**College-Wide Senate General Meeting**

**Savoy Multi-Purpose Room**

**Thursday, April 18, 2019**

**Senate Meeting Minutes**

**Present:**

* **Allied Health:** Professors Sandra Castellanos, Manny Livingston, Ronette Shaw
* **Behavioral and Social Sciences:** Professor Ernest Ialongo (Chairperson), Hector Soto
* **Business:** Professors Sandy Figueroa
* **English:** Professors Tram Nguyen (Vice-Chairperson), Louis Bury
* **Education:** Professors Jacqueline DiSanto, Elys Vasquez-Iscan, Michael Gosset
* **Gittelson-** Ms. Melanie Garcia
* **Humanities:** Professors Natasha Yannacañedo, Ana Ozuna, Victor Torres-Velez, Humberto Ballesteros
* **Language & Cognition:**Professor Thomas Mencher, Isabel Feliz
* **Library:**  Professor Jorge Matos
* **Mathematics:** Professors Alexander Vaninsky, Lauren Wolf, A.J. Stachelek
* **Natural Sciences:** Professor John Gillen, Debasish Roy
* **Higher Education Officers (HEO):** Mr. Terrence Brown, Ms. Safiya Faustin, Mr. Carlos Guevara, Ms. Yvette Luyando, Ms. Alba Lynch, Ms. Cynthia Morales-Delbrun, Ms. Daliz Perez Cabezas, Mr. Fabian Wander, Mr. Iber Poma, Ms. Mercedes Moscat, Ms. Carmen Sosa
* **Public Safety/Maintenance-** Ms. Johanna Powell
* **University Faculty Senate (UFS):** Professors Julie Trachman, Gail August, Felipe Pimentel
* **Professional Staff Congress:**  Professor Craig Bernardini
* **Senate At-Large Representatives:** Professors William Casari, James Kennis, Sanjay Arya, Clara Nieto Wire, Nancy Genova, Mathew Moses, Diana Macri, Thomas Beachdel, Andrew Connolly
* **Student Government Association Representatives (SGA):** President Raziel BenRuben, VP Student Affairs Kelvin Pineda, VP Academic Affairs Ines Alejandro-Soriano, Budget and Finance Comm. Djehamou Bly, and Senators Destini Murray-Mitchell, Khalifa Diao, Kaniah Aljamal, Leydi Bautista, Leyddy Ogando, Jacqueline Lloyd, Stephan Kena, Reynaldo Martinez, Brian Carter

**Absent**

* **CLT-** Professor James Luhan
* **Humanities**- Professor Catherine Lewis
* **Business**- Professor Claude Fernandez
* **Education**- Professor Iris Mercado
* **Adjunct Representatives**- Professor Pamela Stemberg
* **Student Government Association**- Mr. Carlos Diaz, Mr. Arafate Idohou,

**Absent (Excused)**

* **Behavioral and Social Sciences-** Karen Steinmayer
* **English-** Professor Alexandra Milsom
* **HEO-** Ms. Mercedes Moscat, Ms. Elizabeth Wilson
* **At-Large**- Professor Sherese Mitchell
* **Adjunct Representative**-Professor Ruben Worrell

**Vacant:**

* **Counseling (1)**

**Visitors:**

* + - Professor Joseph Caravallo, Humanities
    - Professor Francisco Fernandez,
    - Dean Johana Rivera, Registrar’s Office (SDEM)
    - Mr. Carlos Rivera, SDEM
    - Professor Linda Anderson, Behavioral and Social Sciences
    - Professor Linda Hirsch, English
    - Mr. Sam Byrd, CEWD
    - Professor Marta Rivera, BSS

***1. Call to Order***

* Quorum established at 3:34.
* Senate called to order at 3:34 PM.

***2. Approval of the Agenda***

* Motion duly made to accept April agenda.
* There being no further discussion, upon motion duly made and approved, the April meeting agenda was accepted by acclimation.

***3. Approval of Thursday, March 21, 2019 College-Wide Senate Minutes***

* Chair of Senate made the following corrections to the minutes:
  + James **Luchan**, should be James ***Luhan*** (absent CLT)
  + Pamela **Sternberg**, should be ***Pamela Stemberg*** (absent Adjunct Rep)
  + Dean **Johanna** Rivera, should be Dean ***Johana*** Rivera (visitor).
* There being no proposed revisions or debate, upon duly made motion, the Minutes of the March 21, 2019 College-Wide Senate Meeting, as amended, were accepted by acclimation.

***4. Chair’s Remarks***

**Welcome Back New Adjunct Senator**

* Ruben Worrell of Mathematics

**Food Labeling Update**

* We are still waiting for legal review from Metropolitan
* Asked for update from SVP Rodriguez-Chardavoyne

**Actions by the Senate Executive Committee**

* Standardized how to handle At Large faculty who receive sabbatical while on College-Wide P&B
  + CWPB has no explicit attendance requirements, like the Senate and Senate Committees
  + The Charter, however, explicitly requires 4 At Large members serve on the CWPB
  + As such, the Senate Elections Committee will conduct elections to fill temporary vacancies on the P&B if a faculty member chooses not to attend meetings while on sabbatical
  + This keeps P&B at full strength, the College in compliance with Charter, and respects a faculty members’ time while on sabbatical
* Creation of Ad Hoc Interim Academic Integrity Committee
  + Expires at end of current academic year
  + Handles immediate needs
  + A permanent standing committee will be created next semester and will be approved by full Senate
* Creation of Senate Committee for Charter Revisions
  + Expires at end of 2019-2020 academic
  + Will study full Charter and propose groups of amendments to the Senate

***5. President’s Remarks:***

*The President ceded his time to the Chair of Senate. No comments/updates.*

***6. SGA President’s Remarks:***

*The SGA President ceded his time to the Chair of Senate. No comments/updates.*

***7. Curricular Items:***

**Action 1:** Natural Sciences

ENV 100 Course Revision

Presenter: Prof. Francisco Fernandez

Questions- none

**YES 56 NO 0 ABS 0 INV 1**

The item passes.

**Action 2:** Humanities, Media Design Unit

New Course GD110

Presenter: Prof. Juno Morrow

Questions/comments- none

**YES 56 NO 1 ABS 0 INV 1\_\_**

The item passes.

**Action 3:** Humanities, Media Design Unit

Course and Program Revisions DM 201, DM 202, DM 205, AAS Digital Music

Capstone Course Revision DM 206

Presenter: Prof. Juno Morrow

Chair clarified need to consider all these revisions as one unit. Asked all present if there were any questions/objections to this. No objections/questions.

Questions/comments- none

**YES 58 NO 1 ABS 1 INV 0**

The item passes.

**Action 4:** Humanities, Media Design Unit

Course and Program Revisions GD 201, AAS Game Design

Capstone and Course Revision GD210

Presenter: Prof. Juno Morrow

Questions/comments- none

**YES 58 NO 0 ABS 2 INV 1**

The item passes.

**Action 5:** Humanities, Media Design Unit

Course and Program Revisions DD107, DD108, DD111, DD207, AAS Digital Design & Animation

Capstone Course Revision DD201, DD305

Presenter: Prof. Juno Morrow

Questions/comments-a question was asked regarding the role of foreign languages

**YES 58 NO 0 ABS 1 INV 1**

The item passes.

**Action 6:** Humanities, Latin American and Caribbean Studies Unit

New course- LAC/WGS 260

Presenter: Prof. Inmaculada Bonilla

Questions/comments- a Senator requested which bucket this would fall into, and was informed it would be the Individual and Society bucket

**YES 57 NO 1 ABS 0 INV 0**

The item passes.

**Action 7:** Behavioral and Social Sciences

New course- PSY170

Presenter: Prof. Linda Anderson

Questions/comments- general discussion ensued

**YES 58 NO 0 ABS 0 INV 0**

The item passes.

**Action 8:** Liberal Arts AA Catalogue Course description revision

Presenter: Prof. Linda Hirsch

Questions/comments-

**YES 56 NO 2 ABS 0 INV 0**

The item passes.

Liberal Arts AA Degree Learning outcomes (informational only)- there are now learning outcomes for the liberal arts degree

**Action 9:** Creation of Liberal Arts option

Presenter: Prof. Ana Ozuna

AA degree committee has spent 2.5 years studying what’s happening in the liberal arts field, to see what other institutions have been providing for their students. We want to develop liberal arts options which are understood by students as they enter the workforce. The first liberal arts option is presented today by Prof. Ana Ozuna: Black African Diaspora studies option, reinforced by extracurricular activities.

Questions/comments: discussion ensued, and questions were asked about courses not included in the option dealing with Black Studies; the Senate was informed a decision was made to prioritize courses in the Humanities Dept.

**YES 53 NO 1 ABS 2 INV 0**

The item passes.

***8***. ***Non-Curricular Voting Items***

None

***9. Reports of the Senate Standing Committees***

*Affirmative Action Committee*- Presentation of Charter Revision of Name and Mandate

Presenter: Prof. Hector Soto, Chair

The Affirmative Action Committee has been dealing with the question of whether or not the current mandate was broad enough to look beyond affirmative action. It’s currently a narrow focus. We believe the issues should be broader to include diversity and inclusion. Additionally, the college currently has a Chief Diversity Office, no longer has an Affirmative Action officer.

Proposal:

**Proposed Amendment to the Charter of Governance, Article VII, Section 7,**

**To Change the Name, Function and Membership of the Affirmative Action Committee**

**Name:**

From: Affirmative Action Committee

To: Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

**Function:**

From:

1. To advise and assist the College Affirmative Action Officer in the implementation of affirmative action regulations and policies at the College, including hiring, tenure and termination of employment.

2. To meet regularly with the President in matters concerning the progress of affirmative action.

To:

1. To monitor and make recommendations to the Senate, and as directed by the Senate to the college’s Chief Diversity Officer and/or the college President, regarding the college’s affirmative action and equity policies and regulations including, but not limited to their implementation as concerns hiring, tenure and termination of employment, as well as any reporting regarding those matters.

2. To provide information and updates to the Senate on developments regarding affirmative action, equity, diversity and inclusion especially as concerns their relevance and application to the college or the university.

3. To provide information and conduct activities concerning affirmative action, equity, diversity, inclusion and related matters for the college community.

**Membership (**A corollarychange as the college Affirmative Action Officer is now the college Chief Diversity Officer):

From:

1. Membership shall be determined by the Committee on Committees.

2. The Affirmative Action Officer shall serve as an ex-officio member.

To:

1. Membership shall be determined by the Committee on Committees. [no change]

2. The Chief Diversity Officer shall serve as an ex-officio member.

**Rationale:**

Affirmative action is a product of the civil rights struggles of the 60’s. Affirmative Action as policy and law was intended to remedy the effects of past discrimination. As concerns higher education, affirmative action was meant to provide college/university access to qualified candidates from communities that historically had been excluded or marginalized. Affirmative action opened the doors of higher education for many people of color who otherwise would not have had the opportunity to attend a college or university much less a top tier college or university.

Affirmative action for the most part has been very successful, and it continues to be an important tool in the continuing efforts to achieve equal access and opportunity in higher education. Yet the power and influence of affirmative action has waned as it has become a focal point of political controversy and litigation to the point that in the not-too-distant future the US Supreme Court may declare affirmative action unconstitutional or emasculate it to the point of rendering it null and void for all practical purposes. Today, other tools have evolved to address the issues of equal access and opportunity, namely, equity, diversity and inclusion.

Equity imposes a duty on colleges and universities to formulate policies and related practices that will contribute to the achievement of equitable access, opportunity and outcomes for students from historically underserved or marginalized communities. Diversity and inclusion are equity related concepts that more specifically address issues related to access, retention and graduation.

Moreover, these three concepts reinforce and supplement the goals and objectives of affirmative action. And while they will not replace affirmative action, equity, diversity and inclusion will frame and guide future discussions concerning equal access, opportunity and success for students from historically underserved or marginalized communities.

Questions/comments: general discussion ensued regarding whether the term “Affirmative Action” should or should not be removed from the proposed new name of the committee

A motion was made to amend the proposal to include “Affirmative Action” in the proposed new name of the committee, thus it would be “Committee on Affirmative Action, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

* The motion was seconded and further discussion ensued

Chair confirmed there was quorum at 4:55 pm.

Chair made a motion at 5 pm to extend the meeting to 5:15pm. The item passed by acclimation.

Discussion continued

* Motion to end debate and vote on this proposed amendment to include the word “Affirmative Action” to the new title of the committee
* The motion to end debate was approved by acclimation

The Chair asked if there were any objections to a hand vote on the amendment regarding the title of the committee; there were none; the amendment passed by acclimation

* The new title of the committee would now be “Committee on Affirmative Action, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion”

Discussion and vote on the amended proposal will continue at the May meeting.

*Election Committee-*Prof. Jim Kennis

* Prof. Kennis delivered a brief report on the processes of holding an election at Hostos.

***10. UFS Report-****Julie Trachman*

(The following report is added for the record. It was not presented at this Senate meeting)

UFS Report for Mar. 26, 2019 Plenary Session

1) UFS members approved Charter changes as mentioned previously to you.

2) UFS members passed resolution regarding the student activity issue as put forth by the Student Affairs Committee (of which I am a member of).  The rationale behind the resolution was to show support for the students to continue having a voice in how their money is spent while being in compliance with the law).

3) A considerable amount of time at this session was focused on collecting nominations for the upcoming election for next year’s UFS Executive Committee.

***11. New Business***

None

***12. Adjournment***

* Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm

Prepared by Prof. Diana Macri, Senate Recording Secretary