

# University Senate – September 12, 2022



University Senate Meeting Minutes  
September 12, 2022  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Virtual via Zoom

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Brian Akonu, Miguel Barbosa, Bill Broun, Margaret Ball, Marguerite Carver, Kevin Casebolt, Jeyaprakash Chelladurai, Robert Cohen, Donna-Marie Cole-Malott, Nick D'Angelo, Darla Darno, Esther Deganzo-Cantens, Susan Dillmuth-Miller, Christopher Domanski, Johan Eliasson, James Galdieri, Heather Garrison, Nieves Gruneiro-Roadcap, Chris Kavanau, Ken Long, Erin O'Donnell, Mary Frances Postupack, Melinda Rosen, Michael Sachs, Jessica Santiago, Elizabeth Scott, Denise Seigart, Rob Smith, Brandon Snyder, Santiago Solis, Tom Tauer, Nancy VanArsdale, Keith Vanic, Daisy Wang, Rosemary Williams, Xumao Zhang

## **ABSENT:**

Lorraine Arocho, Nurum Begum, Rob Berkowitz, Jill Boyle, John Chang, Melissa Geiger, William Green, Jan Hoffman, Michelle Jones-Wilson, Brooke Langan, Samia Lanzey, Claire Lenhart, Karen Lucas, Margaret Mullan, Marcus Narcisse, Richard Otto, Nisar Patel, James Shupp, Jennie Smith, Leigh Smith, Kristian Sprankle, Kelly Varcoe, Shawn Watkins, Sylvester Williams, Gabby Yaczkiewicz, Peng Zhang, Xiaochen Zhou

Roll Call & Welcome to new members

- 1) Review of April 4, 2022 Minutes
  - Approved with changes
- 2) University President's Report: Welcome back to the 2022-23 academic year!
  - Covid 19 update-somewhat back to pre-covid operations on campus, it is important to remain vigilant to keep your campus community safe. Wear masks and practice social distancing when you think it is appropriate. There are a few pop-up cases on campus but nothing widespread.
  - New and transfer undergraduate enrollment is up 40-50% better than last year, bringing us close to pre-covid levels. Continuing student enrollment is down, retention is where we have to work to do. We will be engaging in a few activities in the coming weeks to put more attention to our retention issues. We will be enlisting the help of the Gardener Group Institute to help assess University practices, processes, and services to determine areas of improvement.
  - We are in the process of completing the 22-23 comprehensive plan which will be submitted to the Council of Trustees and the State System Board of Governors.
  - Letters will be going out to invite members of the campus community to serve on a Strategic Planning Committee.

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- DEI Committee several changes in personnel in the last year. Looking to reengage and bring people back together.
  - Climate survey completed and compiled and will be distributing the information and findings to groups around campus over the coming weeks.
  - The construction of the new University Center has begun, this process will take about 24 months. We ask that everyone be patient and understanding as it may cause some interruption and disruption to various activities and traffic.
- 3) Fix the Agenda – no changes to the agenda.
  - 4) Committee reports:
    - a. Executive Committee – no report
    - b. Academic Affairs – no report
    - c. Rules and By-Laws – no report
    - d. Budget, Finance and Planning – no report
    - e. Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence Committee – Working with SGA to appoint new students.
    - f. Research – no report
    - g. Student Government Association Report –Our new Student Government President Brian Akonu.
  - 5) Senate Orientation-Susan Dillmuth-Miller presented an overview of the University Senate (see attached). Bob Cohen presented an overview of the Senate Constitution, how the Senate carries out business and Robert’s Rules of Order (see attached).
  - 6) Old Business – none
  - 7) New Business –
    - a. Membership of Existing Committees – All Senate Committee additions approved.
    - b. An evaluation of the Senate is conducted every 5-7 years, a Senate evaluation committee was formed; members of the newly formed committee include: Susan-Dillmuth-Miller, Margaret Ball, Robert Cohen, Brian Akonu, Johan Eliasson, and Heather Garrison.
    - c. Vote on format (in person or Zoom) for future Senate meetings. Discussion regarding pros and cons of each format. Senate vote via online poll results 75% prefer zoom for the Senate meetings. We will conduct Senate meetings via the Zoom format this academic year.
  - 8) Open Discussion – Rob Smith provided an enrollment update for the senate. See attached report.
  - 9) Announcements:
    - Chris Kavanaugh-the midterm election is in 56 days. Burgers and Ballots events will be held weekly outside the University Center to encourage students to register to vote. Burgers and Hot Dogs will be served and also will include live music. Students will also

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be passing out non-partisan voting literature and information and speaking about the importance of making our voices heard through the vote.

- Bill Broun is the faculty advisor of the student newspaper; they are always looking for faculty and administration to help create some opinion pieces for the student newspaper.
- The Provost's Colloquium Series is starting the first presentation will be 9/20 at 5:30 in Beers Lecture Hall. Dr. Donna Marie Colmelott will be presenting.
- Mary Francis Postupack wanted to recognize Dr. Chris Kavanaugh for his work in developing a portable ventilator during Covid. It is a demonstration of the incredible work that is being done on our campus. Congratulations for your ingenious entrepreneurial initiative.
- Brian Akonu made an announcement to please reach out to student government for any resources needed or any initiatives that you feel may be best for the students.

10) Adjournment @ 1623.