

# University Senate – March 11, 2024



University Senate Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2024

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Virtual via Zoom

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mary Amador-Rosario, Margaret Ball, Miguel Barbosa, Nurum Begum, Gregory Boyce, Jill Boyle, Bill Broun, Donna Bulzoni, Marguerite Carver, Kevin Casebolt, Jeyaprakash Chelladurai, Robert Cohen, Matthew Davis, Deena Dailey, Sierra DiCupe, Susan Dillmuth-Miller, Chris Domanski, Darla Drummond, Johan Eliasson, James Galdieri, Melissa Geiger, Nieves Gruneiro-Roadcap, Jan Hoffman, Lorna Hunter, Rebecca James, Chris Kavanau, Brooke Langan, Jamory Lee, Kenneth Long, Jason Narvy, Elaine Rodriguez, Melinda Rosen, Michael Sachs, Elizabeth Scott, Swornim Shrestha, Jennie Smith, Rob Smith, Brandon Snyder, Santiago Solis, Tom Tauer, Ansumana Turay, Keith Vanic, Kelly Varcoe, Rosemary Williams, Sylvester Williams, Xuemao Zhang

## **ABSENT:**

Brian Akonu, Rob Berkowitz, Christopher Brooks, Laurene Clossey, , Donna-Marie Cole-Malott, Nick D'Angelo, Heather Garrison, Yongwook Ju, Damali Jackson, Michelle Jones-Wilson, Heon Kim, Tommy Kish, Andrea McClanahan, Margaret Mullan, Richard Otto, Tina Perez-Beltran, Mary Frances Postupack, Sherwin Stewart, Daisy Wang, Shawn Watkins, Holly Wells, Keiara Whetstone, Chad Witmer, Jahsim Williams, Xiaochen Zhou

## **GUESTS:**

Ralph Elick

Roll Call

- 1) Review of February Minutes
  - a. Approved by general consent.
- 2) University President's Report-No formal report.
  - Spring break welcome extended, noting active campus presence.
  - No formal agenda items; carryover topics include employee handbook and children in the workplace.
  - Task group formation outlined, with representation from different areas.
  - Use of received policies and Society for Human Resource Management guidelines mentioned.
  - Intent to inform union leaders for representative selection and follow standard policy process for formalization.
- 3) Fix the Agenda –

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## 4) Committee reports:

- a. Executive Committee – met last week to formalize agenda.
  - Discussed free speech and need for accessible free speech information for students and ESU community. It is difficult to find the existing free speech page. There is some confusion regarding limitations on free speech. There is a need to improve visibility and clarity of language on the page for better understanding.
- b. Academic Affairs –did not meet last month:
  - Reminder about the start of Ramadan, and implications for fasting students
  - A new survey for incoming freshman and transfer students to gauge interest in general education courses. The data will assist chairs in creating schedules tailored to student interests.
- c. Rules and By-Laws – no report.
- d. Budget, Finance and Planning –
  - The tuition remission subcommittee met on 2/29. Kizzy Morris is taking the lead on the proposal.
- e. Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence Committee – Committee meeting held on January 20th with three main themes: safety, onboarding, and accessibility:
  - Discussion on the possibility of conducting background checks on incoming students, clarified that such checks are not performed due to students' minor status and sealed records.
  - Call for increased visibility of university police and safety officers around campus, particularly in residence halls, being addressed with input from the interim Chief.
  - Plan to conduct safety walks, including one specifically focused on residence halls, in the upcoming Spring semester.
  - Importance of FYE program highlighted for student onboarding, with ongoing discussions within the ESU strategic plan and Gardner retention plan.
  - Focus on supporting students with disabilities, particularly wheelchair users, during snow days; collaboration with facilities and ACEs (Accessibility and Compliance for Educational Settings) to ensure accessible pathways on campus.
- f. Research – Did not meet.
- g. University Senate Evaluation Committee–written report pending.

## 5) Student Government Association Report –

- The Diversity Ball and Student Organization Awards Banquet were successful events.
- Ongoing review of club budgets by Finance Chair and committee, with presentation to SGA for approval on March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Seventeen new senators were sworn in and filling committee assignments.

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- Formation of ad hoc committee for SGA webpage creation during website remodel.
- Student Suggestion Day scheduled for March 22nd in the University Center to gather campus feedback; participants receive a free soft pretzel.

## 6) Old Business – HR Employee Handbook

- HR has commenced reviewing the handbook, completing approximately 50% of it, identifying areas requiring policy changes.
- Anticipated completion of the handbook review towards the end of the semester; suspension of handbook until review and policy updates are finalized.
- Plan to follow normal policy process for policy changes, including sending the handbook to unions before campus-wide distribution.
- Clarification regarding protocols and policies: Protocols may undergo campus review, while policy changes require approval through the policy committee.
- Will focus is on identifying protocols and determining if they should be elevated to policies for policy committee review.

## 7) New Business –

- a. The Nomination and Election Committee announces the opening of nominations for positions including President, Vice President, Secretary, and Members at Large. Members interested in a position or wishing to nominate someone are encouraged to send nominations to the committee.
- b. Safety discussion:
  - Captain Ely visited the SGA on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and addressed questions regarding safety in residence halls, the functionality of parking ticket QR codes, and police jurisdiction.
  - Concerns were raised about unanswered questions and confusion regarding police procedures and campus safety.
  - Need for improved training for residence hall desk workers and RAs to enforce security measures, such as card scanning.
  - Implementation of additional patrols and security measures, such as installing cameras in high-traffic areas were discussed.
  - Updates on safety initiatives, including blue lights and available self-defense classes. The number of security cameras on campus-placement in public areas.
- c. Retention-Rob Smith presented an update on retention. See attached presentation.

## 8) Open Discussion – none

## 9) Announcements:

- Heathers: The Musical opens April 11<sup>th</sup>.

## 10) Adjournment @ 1621

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