

REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE

December 7, 2020 – VIRTUAL SENATE MEETING

ZOOM LINK: <https://udel.zoom.us/j/95356378267>

4:00 PM

Members Present: A. Bhat, A. Biddle, C. Boncelet, D. Brinley, D. Burris, J. Busch, D. Buttrey, J. Cohill, H. Doty, V. Fedele, A. Fields, D. Galileo, M. Gardner, B. Hanson, F. Hofstetter, P. Huq, P. Inguito, J. Jebb, A. Hagstrom, T. Kaminski, A. Karpyn, S. Kaufman, D. Koltonski, M. Laberge, R. Lee, W. Lewis, S. Lu, C. Montero, J. Morgan, R. Moore, J. Morrison, S. Mortenson, L. Nees, I. Obrusnikova, B. Orsega-Smith, V. Perez, S. Raible, L. Reidel, M. Robinson, J. Russ, I. Shah, K. Schell, G. Schleiniger, J. Sharpe, H. Shenton, G. Silber, W. Simpson, D. Stevenson, J. Tanis, K. Theopold, Y. Tsai, T. Vickery, S. Bingham, C. Williams, M. Aristigueta, D. Assanis, E. Atekwana, G. Henry, R. Morgan, K. Matt, L. Thompson, M. Reiger, J. Riera, C. Riordan, J. Pelesko, B. Weber

Members Absent

Members Excused: V. Alexander J. Daniel, A. Hestvik, S. Lanteri, S. Partridge

MINUTES

Joe Dombroski, University Media Services: zoom protocols for the meeting, test poll,

I. Adoption of the Agenda

- Discussion: none
- Approved

II. Approval of the Minutes: November 2, 2020

- Discussion: none
- Approved

III. Remarks: President Dennis Assanis (slides)

- What an unusual year and semester. We regard this as a remarkable success to have made it to the end of the semester without major incident. Thank you for all you have done to keep our community safe, and for your creativity and hard work for student success. Thank you to the students for your patience and resilience.
- On one hand, we have surge-after-surge of COVID, but there is hope on the horizon for treatments and vaccines. We are not out of the woods yet.
- 18,000+ tests administered on campus since August 31. 45 employees operate testing sites and Allen Lab. Partnered with DEMA and NCCo for campus-based testing. Our data dashboard tracks cases and resources.

- Quarantine and isolation spaces are maintained on campus, with stepped-up cleaning protocols, and a successful "Protect the Flock" campaign to promote healthy behaviors.
- Many faculty rethinking how to innovate the courses to have better assessment procedures, and not just move materials online. Many of the techniques being developed in the pandemic will continue to be used. Training was provided to 1200+ faculty to help them with the transition.
- Early college credit program launched in Fall 2020 to allow dual-enrollment in UD classes for Delaware high school students. 286 registered to participate in AY 2020-21, which is already greater than a typical year's worth of all other UD dual-enrollment opportunities. We have participants from 13 schools in all three counties. Courses are offered online and asynchronously in Sociology, Communication, Astronomy, and Food Science. CTAL/PCS is now recruiting faculty for AY 2021-22, expecting significant growth in numbers of students and of participating high schools.
- Research has continued to thrive.
- Inclusive excellence: Fatimah Conley is Interim Chief Diversity Officer. Other centers of inclusiveness include Vice Provost for Diversity office, Student Diversity and Inclusion, Center for Black Culture, Office of Disability Support Services, Office of Equity and Inclusion.
 - **Fatimah Conley:** I appreciate the understanding shown by the faculty of student needs. We are trying to move forward in many areas.
- Delaware Higher Education Support Fund, \$45M from CARES, released by state for expenses directly related to COVID-19 response. Shared with Del State, Del Tech, Delaware College of Art & Design, Goldey-Beacom College, and Wesley College.
- Winter session: 10,200 students registered, 140% of typical. About 9500 undergraduates, with 300% increase in nonresident freshmen. Almost 100% are using "free" credits leftover from fall semester flat-rate.
- Spring semester: advisors are working with new and deferred students and reaching out to students who haven't registered yet, trying to make a much fuller campus.
- Surveillance testing for spring 2021 ramping up to meet greater need. Expecting 6000 tests per week, as opposed to 1000-2000 now. On-campus testing Monday through Thursday beginning February 8. We expect assistance from the State for walk-up and drive-up testing.
- For spring, we wish to get housing up to 60% occupancy (4000), as opposed to 20% now (1300). Seek to house first-years, seniors, and students who want the on-campus experience. Will open housing to noncontract holders in mid-December.
- Fall 2021, we are slightly down on applications but still have over 24,000. Early action applicants are a strategic opportunity to increase yield of high quality students. We have already offered admission to ~7000 students (~1000 more than last year at

this time). 2/3 of our applicants have been early action since we started doing this in 2020.

- Optimism for the future based on amazing people, terrific places, great programs. We have hired 340 new faculty members since I arrived, well more than we have lost to attrition. One in four faculty members are brand new.
- For 2021 and beyond: Prioritize health and safety; address budget challenges; align revenue and expenses; enhance excellence; bolster diversity, equity, and inclusion; strengthen staff; optimize facility use; and advance our strategic plan to imagine UD's role in a post-COVID world.
- Again, thank you all for the tremendous work you have done.

Questions:

- John Morgan (Physics and Astronomy): Could President Assanis share his PPT and attach it to the minutes.
- President Assanis: Yes.
- John Morgan: are you actually hiring new faculty for CTAL?
- Provost Morgan: Have not hired faculty for CTAL, but they are technicians.
- President Assanis: We are encouraging existing faculty to participate in the dual-enrollment program
- Jonathan Russ (History): Do we have a sense of what our finances will look like in Spring.
- President Assanis: We have been working at the idea of a \$228M to \$288M deficit. My first job is to keep it down to the low end. We will re-project our finances by the beginning of the semester. We have every effort in mind to balance our books by the end of this fiscal year.
- John Jebb (English): Students are interested in graduation and the Fall
- Provost Morgan: we are trying to have a commencement, but not firmly planned yet. By Fall, we expect that many people will be vaccinated and the economy will be coming back. We don't know if the students will be vaccinated because they are considered low risk so low priority. Spring will still be single-occupancy rooms, Fall will be back to double. We do plan to be a resident campus. We are hearing from faculty that they don't want to go back to teaching the way they did in the past decade.
- President Assanis. Vaccination will not be mandatory, so we need to be monitoring yet. For commencement, we still have two in mind so that we can give one to class of 2020. If things are not quite there, what do we do? Do we make it later? Will try to have announcements by mid-February

Remarks: Provost Robin Morgan

- Thanks to everyone who helped with the testing process. Just before Halloween we got the positivity rate below 1%, has gone up and down since, but last Wednesday, December 2, was 0.7%.
- Starting Spring semester a week later, February 15, and go through it without spring break.

IV. **Announcements: Senate President Charles Boncelet**

- The General Counsel's Office has clarified a document on political activity and lobbying. UD may be under greater scrutiny in the months and years ahead. If you believe that anything you do might be construed as lobbying, please consult the document.
- Last month, we had a report for the Task Force on Equity in Evaluation. Expect to see resolutions from that in the February agenda, they are coming through the P&T committee now.
- Sexual Misconduct Policy is still in review by a couple of committees, including FWP and Diversity and Inclusion. We hope to have that on the February agenda as well.
- Some of the business of the Senate is behind schedule, owing to the unusual circumstances of the pandemic. Please save June 7, 2021, as a potential additional Senate Meeting in case we need it to complete this year's business.
- Provost Morgan noted that we are starting the Spring semester a week later than originally scheduled, February 15. Exec has decided to keep the Faculty Senate meeting on February 8 as originally scheduled
- Karren Helsel has had her employment extended until the end of January, when she will be helping out with P&T in particular. This will still be Karren's last senate meeting.

V. **Consent Agenda:** [Curriculog login with UD credentials will be required](#)

- No items were pulled from the consent agenda
- Approved: 61 to 0

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

1. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the BS in Animal Bioscience**
2. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on

Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the BS in Animal Science**

3. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the BS in Environmental and Resource Economics- Economics of Sustainability and Policy Concentration**
4. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the Environmental and Resource Economics – Natural Resource Management Concentration**
5. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the Equine Science Minor**
6. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the BS in Food Science**
7. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the BS in Food Science – Culinary Concentration**
8. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the BS in Food Science – Operations and Management Concentration**
9. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the Landscape Architecture BLA**
10. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the BS in Plant Science**

11. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the BS in Pre-Veterinary Medicine**

College of Arts and Sciences

12. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the Major Requirements to the BA in Communication**
13. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the BA in Philosophy**
14. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the BA in Women and Gender Studies**
15. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the BA in Women and Gender Studies – Domestic Violence Prevention and Services Concentration**
16. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the Women and Gender Studies Minor**
17. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the Women and Gender Studies Shared Core**

Graduate Proposals

18. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Graduate Studies (Bob Opila, Chair), with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the MS in Chemistry and Biochemistry**
19. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Graduate Studies (Bob Opila, Chair), with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the PhD in Chemistry and Biochemistry**

VI. Regular Agenda:

A. **Unfinished Business:** None

B. **New Business:**

Academic Resolutions: [Curriculog login with UD credentials will be required](#)

1. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (Rusty Lee, Chair) with the concurrence of the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair), and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request for Permanent Status of the BS in Applied Mathematics**

WHEREAS, the Department of Mathematical Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences has provisionally offered a successful program for the BS in Applied Mathematics, enrollment in which has grown each year, and

WHEREAS, the National Research Council has called for training more mathematical scientists who understand the role of the mathematical sciences in the wider world of science, engineering, medicine, defense, and business, and

WHEREAS, the Applied Mathematics program requires deep training in mathematics as well as achievement of a minor in one of twenty-one minors overseen by other departments, and

WHEREAS, no new courses were created for, nor new resources devoted to, the Applied Mathematics program, and departments that host the approved minors do not report an undue burden as a result of the program, and

WHEREAS, the Applied Mathematics degree is an exemplar of fostering multidisciplinary individuals who can bring knowledge from one area to make an impact in another; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate recommends approval for the permanent establishment of the Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics.

- Discussion: none
- Approved: 64 to 0.

Regular Resolutions: No Curriculog login will be required for these resolutions

2. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Library Committee (Cecilia Arighi, Chair) with the concurrence of the Committee on Committees and Nominations (Allison Karpyn, Chair) and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the Faculty Handbook Section 3.1 Standing Committee System of the Faculty and its Senate – Library Committee ([Attachment 1](#))**

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate Approved the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration as a “stand alone school” April 2020, and

WHEREAS, Several Faculty Senate Standing Committees require faculty representation from the various colleges, including the Library Committee; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Handbook section 1.3 Standing Committee of the Faculty and its Senate – Library Committee - be revised to reflect the increase in faculty representation as in [Attachment 1](#)

- Discussion: none
- Approved: 64 to 0.

3. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair) with the concurrence of the Committee on Committees and Nominations (Allison Karpyn, Chair) and the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **request to revise the Faculty Handbook Section 3.1 Standing Committee System of the Faculty and its Senate – Coordinating Committee on Education ([Attachment 1](#))**

WHEREAS, the Registrar and the senior administration of the University of Delaware approve the academic calendar for the University several years in advance, and

WHEREAS, April 2013 the University Faculty Senate approved a resolution charging the Faculty Senate Coordinating Committee on Education

with reviewing the approved academic calendar and reporting its review to the Faculty Senate as a point of information, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Handbook, Section 1.3 Standing Committee System of the Faculty and its Senate - Coordinating Committee on Education - be revised as in [Attachment 1](#)

- Discussion: none
- Approved 64 to 0.

4. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **revision to the Faculty Handbook Section 3.1 Instructional Program Policies – Section 13 - Student Class Attendance and Excused Absences** ([Attachment 1](#))

WHEREAS, the language in the Faculty Handbook should be contemporary and inclusive, and

WHEREAS, the language should include consideration of mental health, and

WHEREAS, the current Faculty Handbook has a paragraph mixing both religious observances and athletic participation, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate recommends the changes to the Faculty Handbook included in [Attachment 1](#).

Discussion:

- Pres Boncelet: This is adding gender-neutral language and mental health. A revision on Religious Holidays is still being worked on by another committee and may come before us in February.
- José Riera (Vice President of Student Life): Should we broaden the subtitle of Athletic Participation because it includes other extracurricular activities?
- John Jebb (Parliamentarian): This motion comes from Exec, so Pres. Boncelet has the power to make this change.
- Chris Williams (President-Elect). CCE would have not problem with this.
- Pres. Boncelet: We will accept that change so that the title is Athletic Participation and other Extracurricular Activities.
- Fatimah Conley (Chief Diversity Officer): Was curious about the logic behind the religious holidays, which is not inclusive.

- Pres. Boncelet: That is exactly the issue that is still being worked on and is not ready at this time.
- Deni Galileo (Biological Sciences): You can't just accept that as a friendly amendment and change it.
- Pres. Boncelet: We will withdraw the friendly amendment and expect to have it fixed in February when we bring back the religious holidays revision.
- Vickie Fedele (Associate in Arts Program): Does the committee discussing the religious holidays have a reason for not including more holidays.
- President Assanis: at my former institutions, the Provost would publish each year a list of recognized holidays. I don't see why we couldn't do such a thing.
- Vickie Fedele: What is jumping out to me is that we have listed Christian and Jewish holidays.
- Rusty Lee (Civil and Environmental Engineering, UGS Chair): What we are working on is getting a much more religion-neutral statement, not toward publishing a specific list. That should be ready for the Senate in February
- John Cohill (Undergraduate student representative): Why are we doing this now instead of waiting for everything being ready in February.
- Pres. Boncelet. The Senate has been working on this for years, and exec wanted to the items we expect to be noncontroversial out of the way now. We expect there to be much more discussion of the religious holidays, and that might prevent the other items from passing in a timely manner.
- John Jebb (English): The WHEREAS clauses for this are three good reasons for doing this much now.
- John Morgan (Physics and Astronomy): Besides endorsing John Jebb's statement, I point out that the Galileo Rule does not prohibit accepting an amendment, but does require a 2/3 vote to proceed in the same meeting.
- **Approved.** 58 to 2.

5. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Budget Committee (Jim Butkiewicz, Chair) with the concurrence of the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the **approval of a resolution for the Faculty Senate Budget Committee to receive annually the University's Budget and all relevant documents.**

WHEREAS, the first item in the charge of the University Faculty Senate Budget Committee is "becoming fully informed on the financial and planning issues of this University. Specifically, it shall examine University

budgets, financial statements and other related documents used in developing budgetary plans”, and

WHEREAS, the second item in this committee’s charge is “reviewing and providing timely prospective advice, prior to finalizing budget turnaround decisions, concerning the University’s annual budgets, the processes used to determine them, and their potential impact on the academic, research and outreach missions of the University to the President, Provost, Deans and other officers of administration with responsibility for the University’s annual budget”, and

WHEREAS, ever since the eruption of the coronavirus pandemic the University of Delaware has been facing unprecedented financial and enrollment challenges, and

WHEREAS, demographic projections indicate that financial and enrollment challenges for the University of Delaware are likely to persist for many years into the future, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the University Faculty Senate urges the relevant officers of administration to consult proactively with the members of the University Faculty Senate Budget Committee and to share with them all documents relevant to developing the University’s annual budgets, including revenue projections, plans to hire new faculty and staff members and to construct new buildings, prior to finalizing such budgets and plans and presenting them for approval to the University’s Board of Trustees.

Discussion:

- Ismat Shah (Materials Science and Engineering): This resolution implies that the Budget Committee does not currently get this information, and there should be more information on the relevant documents.
- John Morgan (Physics and Astronomy, member of Budget Committee): it has been like pulling teeth to get information. We want overall look at commitments on buildings, what is spent on the faculty, and large items, given that we expect financial stringency for the next years.
- Jim Butkiewicz (Chair, Budget Committee): Last year we were asked to comment on a few proposals, but we did not participate in the budgeting process. This year there has been more interaction, but we still that we would like more information to see if we can get a better sense of what might be done in our current budget situation.
- President Assanis: we have had much interaction this year and we can provide more data. In previous years there was not a sense of urgency

- Matt Robinson (Past President, member of Budget Committee): One of the things we need to see more of is revenue coming in. I am very appreciative of the meetings that President Assanis has had with us.

- **Approved** 59 to 1.

6. Recommendation by Senator Samantha Bingaman (Graduate Students) co-sponsored by Senators Chris Williams (President elect), John Cohill (Undergraduate Student Representative), Ryan Moore (Undergraduate Student Representative), and Jared Sharpe (Graduate Student Representative) for the **approval of a resolution to preserve the Sustainability Manager's Position**

WHEREAS, in 2017, President Assanis joined 3,800 leaders from America's city halls, state houses, boardrooms, and 411 college campuses to pledge their support for sustainability efforts, reduce our carbon footprint, and fight against climate change. Building on that pledge, in 2019, the Provost's and Executive Vice President's Offices initiated a new University of Delaware Sustainability Council to improve the University's sustainability commitment; and

WHEREAS, by promoting greater sustainability at the University of Delaware we are: 1) already saving countless dollars each year through a 20% reduction in energy efficiency since the 2008 UD Climate Action Plan; 2) improving recruitment of the next generation of faculty, undergraduate and graduate students who overwhelmingly support environmental protection; 3) improving our graduates' education and dedication to environmental health and justice; 4) enhancing mental well-being and acknowledgement of the intrinsic value of essential ecosystem services and the natural environment; and 5) providing avenues for corporate investment in infrastructure and research collaborations; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, October 27th, as part of the University of Delaware's budget cuts, the Sustainability Manager was terminated thus 1) reversing the University's support and messaging that sustainability and addressing climate change is not a priority for our future, and 2) hinder the immediate and long-term campus wellbeing and reduce our competitiveness against comparator institutions that are far ahead in their sustainability efforts and programs; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Manager is the one person at the University of Delaware who has the most comprehensive and holistic knowledge of sustainability topics in education, outreach, and campus operations, and

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Manager fosters a strong relationship with student organizations and engages in student life regarding matters of sustainability on campus; and

WHEREAS, as of the time of this resolution's submission, more than 1,600 students, alumni, faculty, and staff have signed a petition urging a reversal of this decision; be it therefore

RESOLVED, while we recognize that the university is facing unprecedented financial hardships, we, the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus community at the University of Delaware, urge the campus leadership to reconsider and reverse the decision to terminate the Sustainability Manager and reaffirm the President's and Provost's supported pledges to holistically promote sustainability as a priority for the University of Delaware. Even in the most difficult and dire times, we need to ask ourselves what our core values are and not abandon our pledge to create a more holistic sustainable future for its students, faculty, and staff as well as the State of Delaware and the planet.

Discussion:

- Samantha Bingaman (Graduate Student Government, mover): We modified this from the original one by taking out a particular name. Some of you are concerned about us getting involved in the personnel decisions of a different department. This is a signal to the University that the students and faculty care about certain issues. We take issue with the layoff of somebody who was working almost full time on sustainability. This is a huge step backwards. We would have more outcry if this was someone working with mental health or deversity.
- John Cahill recognizes Kristie Arlotta (Sustainability Council member), who speaks: We believe that UD must show a strong commitment to sustainability as a way of investing in a greener, more equitable future.
- Haritha Malladi (Engineering, not Senator): Would like to put into this that the Michelle Bennet was very involved in student education, co-teaching the introduction to engineering class.
- John Morgan (Physics and Astronomy): A couple of weeks before she was terminated, she sent a communication to the university community with sensible suggestions about turning off lights and so on. I think a good sustainability manager would save multiples of money. Also ask to recognize Michael Chajes
- Michael Chajes (Dean, Honors Colloge): I have a long history of experience with sustainability, was on the committee that hired Michelle. I work with people across the state, and eliminating a sustainability manager is not a positive thing for our image. This is a really important area and we need to maintain momentum. I echo John's comments that sustainability will save UD.

- Hans-Jörg Busch (Languages, Literature, and Culture): I support this and wonder why the Executive Committee and others in the administration did not endorse.
- Estella Atekwana (Dean, Earth, Ocean and, Environment): I support this resolution for the coming climate crisis.
- President Assanis: I don't want anyone to take any kind of reorganization activity as indicating a lack of interest in a topic. We still have a commitment to sustainability. This resolution conflates a commitment to sustainability to a particular position.
- President Boncelet: Exec sent this to Budget Committee, and they did not feel that this resolution was appropriate to single out a single position at a time when many people are being laid off.
- Fred Hofstetter (Education): Editorial suggestion parallel use of gerunds in third WHEREAS (Accepted by movers). I also sit on the Budget Committee. I'm not sure that in the kind of budget situation we are facing that it is appropriate to be editing the university's budget on the senate floor in this detail.
- Samantha Bingaman. We are discussing a specific position, but this position reflects a foundational value of our community We understand that these layoffs were difficult decisions. This not just one position, but it is the fate of the University.
- Chris Williams (President Elect, co-chair of Sustainability Council). We are advisory, and we are doing our best to address the existential threat of climate change. The sustainability manager is our lifeline, our connection to the University. This position is critical to the University. Would like to represent Martha Buell.
- Martha Buell (Former President, member of Sustainability Council). All of our meetings, every time that we discuss reducing our carbon footprint, we also discuss how these changes will save us money. The sustainability managers position was uniquely situated around teaching and service.
- John Morgan: First WHEREAS should with be a "increase in efficiency" or a "reduction in consumption" but currently is "reduction in efficiency. (Amendment accepted by movers.)
- **Approved** 42 to 17

VII. Presentations: None

VIII. Introduction of New Business:

Such items as may come before the Senate. (No motion introduced under new business, except a motion to refer to committee, shall be acted upon until the next meeting of the Senate.)

John Cohill (Undergraduate Representative) presented three items of new business.

1) A resolution from Shannon Gibbons & John Cohill

- WHEREAS as specified in the Constitution and By-laws, the Student Government Association is determined to enhance student life by actively addressing student issues as the liaison among students, faculty, and administration; and
- WHEREAS one of the priorities of the Student Government Association is to ensure the overall wellness of each and every University of Delaware student; and,
- WHEREAS the current University of Delaware Faculty Handbook section 3.1.13 Student Class Attendance and Excused Absences as it is written in the University of Delaware Faculty Handbook does not coincide with the University's missions surrounding student health and wellness promotion; and,
- WHEREAS the current University Attendance Policies as they are written do not coincide with the University's missions surrounding student health and wellness promotion; and,
- WHEREAS it is the duty of the University of Delaware Faculty Senate Committee on Student Life to review policies and regulations bearing upon the care, control, government, and discipline of all students; and,
- WHEREAS all matters pertaining to faculty regulation are subject to Faculty Senate approval, as stipulated equal-bargaining clause within University employment contracts; be it therefore
- RESOLVED that the Student Government Association will introduce a bill as new business at the December 7th Faculty Senate meeting, and be it further
- RESOLVED that Section 3.1.13 Student Class Attendance and Excused Absences of the Faculty Handbook be revised to provide inclusive language surrounding student health and well being shown in Attachment 1, and be it further
- RESOLVED that the University Attendance Policies be revised to provide inclusive language surrounding student health and well being shown in Attachment 2, and be it further
- RESOLVED that the Student Life Committee of the Faculty Senate starts a continuous dialogue amongst its members regarding the current University Policies and the changes that need to occur to better support the mental health and wellness for all students. Changes that include but are not limited to faculty mental health first aid training, faculty syllabus suggested language page surrounding support for both the mental health of students and campus suicide prevention efforts, as well as further policy guidance surrounding mental health and wellness for students and faculty.

2) From Kasiyah Tatem, Tori Glover & John Cohill.

- WHEREAS as specified in the Constitution and By-laws, the Student Government Association is determined to enhance student life by actively addressing student issues as the liaison among students, faculty, and administration; and
- WHEREAS the University Delaware Faculty Handbook section 1.3 states “it shall also have the ability to develop and recommend new general education initiatives and to bring forward resolutions seeking to improve the ways in which the University fosters the goals of general education”; and
- WHEREAS students have expressed concerns regarding testing platforms, such as ProctorU, that affect their mental health and academic performance shown in Attachment 1; and
- WHEREAS the Student Government Association is committed to advocating for initiatives and/or policies that aid to improve the quality of education while incorporating measures that maintain and improve the mental health of students; be it therefore
- RESOLVED the Student Government Association encourages faculty senate to establish policies that require faculty to provide alternative testing options to students who experience difficulty adjusting to testing platforms such as ProctorU.

3) From Brian Chansky, Kasiyah Tatem, Mia Carbone, & John Cohill.

- WHEREAS as specified in the Constitution and By-laws, the Student Government Association is determined to enhance student life by actively addressing student issues as the liaison among students, faculty, and administration; and
- WHEREAS one of the priorities of the Student Government Association is to ensure the overall wellness of each and every University of Delaware student; and,
- WHEREAS the current academic calendar for the Spring semester 2021 does not include any break for students and is therefore not conducive to a productive learning experience; and
- WHEREAS students have expressed deep concern for their well-being come Spring; and
- WHEREAS it is the duty of the University of Delaware Faculty Senate Committee on Student Life to review policies and regulations bearing upon the care, control, government, and discipline of all students; and,
- WHEREAS all matters pertaining to faculty regulation are subject to Faculty Senate approval, as stipulated equal-bargaining clause within University employment contracts; be it therefore
- RESOLVED that the Student Government Association will introduce a bill as new business at the December Faculty Senate meeting, and be it further

- RESOLVED that the Student Government Association call upon the Faculty Senate to approve various “Re-Coop” days throughout the Spring semester; and, be it further
- RESOLVED that these days are staggered throughout the semester and equivalent to the maximum possible number of days that will allow course credit requirements to be met.

Two Resolutions on behalf of the Undergraduate Studies Committee were introduced by UGS Chair Rusty Lee

1) Resolution on Religious Holidays

- WHEREAS the current language related to religious holidays in Faculty Handbook Section 1.3.13 is not neutral to all possible observed religious holidays, and
- WHEREAS there needs to be clarity of dialogue between students and faculty to assure reasonable planning for excused absences on religious holiday, be it therefore
- RESOLVED the Faculty Handbook Section 1.3.13 be updated to improve inclusivity as well as communication via Attachment 1.

2) Without a resolution, UGS proposes a policy that moves approval of non-credit certificates into Curriculog. The policy is presented as Attachment 1.

Amy Hagstrom (Vice President): Last meeting we passed a resolution allowing faculty to choose whether they will be on campus or not. We do not extend that courtesy to contracted graduate students. I believe that should be discussed. I do not have a motion to present.

John Morgan (Physics and Astronomy): I endorse VP Hagstrom's point.

Provost Morgan: a quick comment regarding the re-coop days proposed in the undergraduate student resolutions. I am in favor of that and will take action on it before February.

Adjourned at 6:10.