

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE
June 22, 2020 – 4:00 PM

MINUTES

Senators Present: V. Alexander, A. Bhat, A. Biddle, C. Boncelet, D. Burris, M. Bush, D. Buttrey, D. Cha, D. Charlene Moore, H. Doty, M. Fields, J. Fuhrmann, D. Galileo, J. Gizis, F. Grubb, B. Hanson, A. Hestvik, F. Hofstetter, P. Huq, P. Inguito, J. Jebb, A. Hagstrom, T. Kaminski, A. Karpyn, M. Laberge, S. Lanteri, R. Lee, S. Lu, J. Hill, T. Melvin, B. Morling, J. Morrison, I. Obrusinkov, E. Orsega-Smith, L. Overby, S. Partridge, V. Perez, S. Raible, R. Rakesh, M. Robinson, J. Russ, H. Shenton, S. Sundaram, K. Takacs Haynes, J. Tannis, K. Theopold, C. Williams, J. Rowland, G. Henry, R. Morgan, L. Tompson, M. Rieger, J. Riera, J. Pelesko, D. Stevens, A. Fox

Senators Absent:

Senators Excused: D. Brinley, J. Busch, J. Cohill, J. Custer, M. Greene, M. Kahn, W. Lewis, L. Liao, S. Mortenson, A. Poorani, E. Atekwana, D. Doren, K. Matt, C. Riordan, B. Weber,

Initial Presentation Jamie Summerfield (Faculty Commons) reviewed the voting procedure.

I. Adoption of the Agenda

- discussion: none
- approved

II. Approval of the Minutes: June 8, 2020

- discussion: none
- approved

III. Announcements: Senate President Matthew Robinson

An email today to all faculty announced a Town Hall that will be held by the Faculty Senate next Monday, June 29. The theme of the Town Hall is “Promoting the Development and Implementation of Antiracist Policies and Curricula.” The event will be moderated by President-Elect Charlie Boncelet. We thank Lynnette Overby from the Community Engagement Initiative for putting this together.

IV. Regular Agenda:

A. Unfinished Business: None

B. New Business:

1. Recommendation from Co-Sponsoring Senators: Galileo, Hagstrom, Bhat, Custer, Raible, Buttrey, Orsega-Smith, Hestvik, Sundaram, Inguito, Morrison, Doty, Laberge, Obrusnikova, Rakesh, Biddle, Busch, and Fuhrmann for the approval of a Resolution Revising Section 1.1.4.6 of the Faculty Handbook (Constitution of the Faculty of the University of Delaware).

WHEREAS, it is important to provide flexibility to conduct Senate meetings in Special Session, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that Section 1.1.4.6 of the Faculty Handbook be revised to provide one additional condition for holding special meetings as shown in Attachment 1

Attachment 1

1.1.4.6 Faculty Senate Meetings

The Senate shall hold at least one regular meeting each month during the academic year (September through May). The Senate may by the vote of two-thirds of its membership increase the schedule of regular meetings. It shall hold special meetings (1) at the call of the President of the University, (2) at the call of the President of the Senate, (3) by majority vote of the senators present at any regular or special meetings, (4) by petition of twenty (20) percent of the voting membership of the University Faculty to the President of the Senate, ~~or~~ (5) by petition to the President of the Senate of at least twenty (20) percent of the senators, or (6) when requested by a majority of the voting members of the Executive Committee. The President of the Senate (or in his or her absence the Vice President of the Senate) in the last ~~three~~ four cases shall issue the call of the special meeting within a week of receipt of the request. The meeting shall be held within one week of the call. The call of a special meeting shall state the purpose or purposes of the special meeting and no business shall be transacted other than that specified in the notice of the meeting.

Discussion:

- Deni Galileo (AAUP President): This is a simple amendment to the constitution which adds an additional way to call a meeting -- when requested by a majority of the voting members of the Senate Executive Committee. Recommend a positive vote and sees no downside.
- Fred Hofstetter (Education): I respect Sen. Galileo for the manner in which he brought it forward. Argument against for two reasons. It is divisive because a few members of the Executive Committee can overrule the President and President elect. It is inefficient because a very small number of committee members can

cause a meeting to be held. Believe that the manner in which this meeting was called, acquiring 20% of the senators' support, is the appropriate manner of doing things. Recommends a vote against.

- Rakesh (Mathematics): In favor of the amendment, because otherwise it allows dictatorial powers to the President.
- Arild Hestvik (Linguistics and Cognitive Science): Nobody wants to have unnecessary meetings, but we need a flexible, less cumbersome way of calling meetings during a time of crisis.
- Doug Buttrey (Chemical Engineering): I agree with this amendment. If the majority of Exec needs a meeting, we should have one. I trust my colleagues to only call one when it's important.
- Chris Williams (Past President): In a special time of crisis, we need to have an ability to vote on emergency resolutions in a timely manner. There will be faculty and academic welfare issues that need a vote.
- Jim Morrison (Public Policy and Administration): In favor. A president is not a king, it will be a rarity but feel the executive committee should be able to overrule the president. Things are happening quickly over the last several months and the senate needs to have flexibility.
- Fred Hofstetter: If we're going to do this we should think about the logic of 1.1.4.6. We are now saying that the Executive Committee can call the meeting, we should modify clause 2 and not have the President of the Senate be allowed to call the special meetings. Proposes amending the amendment so that clause 2 just becomes that the Executive Committee can call a meeting.
- Deni Galileo: Does not see the reasons for Sen. Hofstetter. This amendment adds a way to call a meeting. Also, this has been vetted by the Rules Committee and has the concurrence of the Rules Committee.
- Matt Robinson: Fred, did you propose an amendment?
- Fred Hofstetter: I did propose an amendment, but did not hear a second.
- Alan Fox (Philosophy): I think Sen. Hofstetter is proposing to get rid of the language Deni is adding.

Accepted: 42 to 7.

2. Introduction of a Resolution by Chris Williams:

On behalf of myself Chris Williams (Incoming Faculty Senate President-elect and chair of Coordinating Committee), Senator Rusty Lee (incoming Chair of the Faculty Senate Undergraduate Studies Committee), Senator Lynnette Overby (Faculty Senate

Vice President), Meghan McInnis-Dominguez (Chair of the Faculty Senate Diversity and Inclusion Committee), Christine Cucciarre (Chair of the Faculty Senate General Education Committee), and Mia Carbone (Undergraduate Student Government President), we enter into the record the following resolution, June 22, 2020:

WHEREAS, a central tenet to the University of Delaware is to build a culture of inclusion, acceptance, diversity, and equality but with the acknowledgement we must work harder, and

WHEREAS, President Assanis, in his letter of June 18, 2020, provided a series of valuable infrastructural steps toward this goal such as mandated diversity training, diversifying faculty and students, and increasing diversity programs, and

WHEREAS, >2500 students, faculty, and alumni signatories to the open letter to the University of Delaware entitled “We demand action against racism” asked for the University of Delaware students to be better educated on racial and social injustices through mandatory sensitivity/diversity training, and through a re-examination of the preexisting “History and Cultural Change” and “Multicultural” breadth requirements, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that we request the Faculty Senate Committees of General Education, Diversity and Inclusion, and Undergraduate Studies work together via a collaborative task force to re-examine and/or re-imagine the University’s breadth requirements and first year experiences to assure the University of Delaware students are better educated in racial and social justice from the societal, cultural, and environmental inequalities still pervasive in our society.

Meeting adjourned 4:26.