

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATE**  
**February 8, 2021 – VIRTUAL SENATE MEETING**

**MINUTES**

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

Members Excused: A. Bhat, D. Burris, R. Moore, S. Mortenson, S. Lanteri, M. Robinson, J. Russ, E. Atekwana

Members Absent: None

**I. Adoption of the Agenda**

- Discussion: President Boncelet noted that a modified agenda was sent out on Friday. We will discuss resolution 3 before resolution 2, which should make sense when we get there. Provost Morgan is running late so her remarks may be delayed until later in the agenda.
- Approved

**II. Approval of the Minutes: [December 7, 2020](#)**

- Discussion: John Morgan (Physics and Astronomy) requested that name spelling be checked and that Pres. Assanis's slides from his December presentation should be attached. Pres. Boncelet indicated that we will take care of both items.
- Approved

**III. Remarks: President Dennis Assanis**

- Congratulations to Karren Helsel, retiring, and Karen Holden, taking over as administrative assistant to the senate.
- We hope that all of you and our families are staying safe and are ready for a successful spring semester. We are seeing improvements that lead to optimism, especially about vaccines. About 10% of the population has been vaccinated, especially those over 65.
- Spring semester class looks really, really good. We have >95% retention rate from Fall semester, which is very consistent with previous years. We have 110 students

who deferred admission in Fall are going to be attending this Spring, and 14 transfer students. An additional 101 students who deferred in Fall have deferred to Fall 2021.

- Face-to-face teaching this Spring: 17% of undergraduate sections, 21% of graduate sections -- 18% overall which is twice as much as Fall semester, and we hope it actually increases as the semester goes along. 7844 students will have a face-to-face experience, of which 6346 are undergraduates. About 1/3 of students will have a face-to-face experience. We hope to have a face-to-face commencement when the time comes.
- Housing: 3859 students will be living in dorms this Spring, ~60% of design capacity (only had 1300 in Fall). 2419 are first year students, 1440 are upperclassmen. 1/3 Delawareans, 2/3 out-of-state. There will only 1400 students in dorms taking face-to-face classes, so there will be about 2500 students living on campus but taking entirely online courses. There will be protocols for social distancing.
- We are going to increase testing to 6000/week, currently 2000/week. We are encouraging pre-arrival testing. Everyone living in the dorms will be tested every week, testing all athletes every week, and another 2000 randomly each week. We will be getting off-campus students to test as well. We will encourage them to get tested from one of the many programs available. Anyone who has any symptoms should get checked.
- Regarding the Fall 2021 class, you may have read about severe declines in application volume nationwide. By contrast, UD is breaking a new record in applications, with 33000 applications to date, over 29000 are out-of-state -- growth of 37% compared to two years ago. Delawareans up about 6% -- 3658. Unlike other small states, we work hard at bringing in Delawareans. We offer admission to over 92% of Delaware applicants in one of our programs or campuses and, end up with a 40% in state typically, and this year is 41%. The kind of numbers we're seeing are typically only seen at Ivy League schools. We have extended deadlines for applications, especially encouraging applicants from southern Delaware
- Financial condition: We have taken many austerity measures, working closely with the Governor. Governor put aside \$45M from CARES act for schools in Delaware. Our loss was \$38M, and \$32.5M will be granted to UD from the \$45M. In addition, the Federal government will give us \$18M of which \$6M will go to students and \$12M will stay with the institution. Total of \$44M in funds going to University.
- We now have a \$40M fiscal loss from extra teaching in winter and summer and costs about to be incurred for testing. Winter was very successful. Normally we make about \$22.5M in net winter revenue. We had \$34.2M in gross revenue, increased enrollments by 60% -- free credits really worked. Free credits cost us \$25.6M, and spent, with \$3M more in costs so net revenue was more like \$5.6M net instead of \$22.5M, meaning a \$17M impact.
- We are not out of the woods yet, but starting to feel optimistic.

## Questions

- John Morgan (Physics and Astronomy): Glad that we are doing well on applicants, but that will not help if the students do not show up next fall. The experience at many universities shows that a robust testing program is essential. It is good that you're increasing from 2000/week to 6000/week, but we should do more. E.g., I read a report from Duke, which has approximately the same number of students as we do, and they are planning to do 20000/week. Given our Fall experience that main transmission was from students off-campus, they should be tested at least as frequently as students in the dorms.
- Pres. Assanis: If we can increase testing capacity we will, but we are at capacity. We have had a good relationship with state for testing programs done on the Star campus. We also hope that as the community gets more healthy, we can do more pooling of tests, which is possible when the positives get below 1%.

Also, I want to thank John Morgan for his very supportive comments at the Joint Finance Committee hearing (DE state legislature budget hearings) last week. Our potential budget grant from the state looks good. We were asked to plan for a 5% cut, but JFC did not propose a cut in the \$126M the Governor recommended. They have also put aside \$10M for capital budget, and are giving us an additional 1% for salary increases for employees funded by the state.

- Deni Galileo (Biological Sciences, AAUP): Vaccines are important step. Can you clarify why higher education faculty and staff have been stratified to the bottom of Phase 1b? Is there anything more you can be doing with the Governor to get vaccines? It also seems that our neighboring states are doing better.
- Pres. Assanis: Every state has slightly different rules. I have been talking to the Governor every week, and I have been asking for higher-ed relief funds and need testing. We are definitely in 1b. I ask VP Riordan and Provost Morgan to expand on state statistics.
- Charles Riordan (Vice President for Research). All educators are in 1b. The state says 270k Delawareans are in 1a and 1b combined. State says 125k doses have been administered, and we're getting 15k to 20k doses per week. Until the state gets more doses, we cannot increase the rate. At two shots per person, 20k/week, it will take a few months to get through 1b.
- Provost Robin Morgan: Availability varies with county you're in. There just is no availability yet for most people under 65. Just getting our front line healthcare workers access is difficult. Chester County (PA) is woefully behind DE. Johnson&Johnson vaccine is not out there yet but on the way. We are advising people to get the first vaccine of whatever they can legally get. Getting the vaccine does not mean you are free to stop wearing a mask. We also don't know how many students have already had the disease.
- Pres. Assanis: We recognize that some people will not want to take it. It's going to take several weeks at the rate we are going to get doses -- UD has about 10k people in 1b. Perhaps we'll hold a mass vaccination event with the state when the doses are

available, perhaps when the J&J vaccine becomes available. Governor wants to work work on social equity -- more brown and black people need to be vaccinated.

**Remarks: Provost Robin Morgan**

- Just want to thank everyone for their work and hope you all had a good winter session, and I wish you well for the Spring. I gave Pres. Assanis my notes and have nothing further to add.

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

- Reminder of Karren Helsel retiring, to be replaced by Karen Holden
- Announcement of reapportionment of Senators (a process done every other year, for which the rules are that each independent unit (college or independent school) gets a minimum of two, the total number of elected faculty senators is 50, and the number of senators is proportional to the number of faculty. The new allocations for 2021 to 2023 will be:

Agriculture and Natural Resources	3
Arts and Sciences	21
Lerner College of Business and Economics	6
Earth, Ocean, and Environment	2
Education and Human Development	3
Engineering	7
Health Sciences	6
Biden School of Public Policy and Administration.	2

The only changes from the previous allocations are that Arts and Sciences has one fewer senator and the Biden School has increased to two senators as an independent school.

- An announcement from Registrar's Office on course challenges will be emailed to all faculty. The Challenge period for course proposals will open on February 15 and close on February 26. The Challenge Period each spring is a 10 day period in which all University faculty can review the Challenge List and submit electronically any concern or challenge they might have in reference to a particular course. The Challenge List is the list of all course proposals in the current cycle that have received the required approvals. Please navigate to Curriculog to see the challenge list. All disputes will be forwarded to the appropriate committee chairs (Undergraduate Studies Committee or Graduate Studies Committee), and those committee chairs will oversee the resolution of any challenge. All course changes approved by those committees become part of the permanent course inventory next Fall.
- Save the date: either May 10 or June 7 for possible extra senate meeting. We had previously announced a save-the-date for June 7, but have received feedback that having meetings two weeks in a row and being done before summer is preferable to some.
- We are back to normal grading for the spring semester. This still includes the freshman grade forgiveness policy and the CURC review process, but the special pass grades are no longer available.

- Title IX Sexual Misconduct policy is still in review by the administration and Faculty Welfare and Privileges Committee. Targeting it for the Senate for March or April. We have talked this over in the Executive Committee we believe it is important to take our time and get it right. It is a complicated document with many details, and it is important, so we want to get it right.
- **Emma Goetz** UDance Faculty and Alumni Engagement Chair made a short presentation. We run fundraising for the Andrew McDonough B+ foundation. Besides the spring dance marathon, we have a lot of community outreach. We provide meaningful experiences for our B+ heroes and their families. In the US, 46 kids are diagnosed with cancer every day, and 49 die each week. UDance is largest student organization on campus, and we are having an outreach and discussion tonight at 6:00 p.m. It will involve Dr. Latoya Watson (B+ Hero Mariah's mother, and Assistant Dean, Associate in Arts Program) and Dr. Erin Knight (Assistant Professor in the Biden School and Associate Director of UD Partnership for Health Communities). We have a faculty weekly newsletter. We will be hosting a speakers series in March. Contact: [udance2021@gmail.com](mailto:udance2021@gmail.com) or [egoetz@udel.edu](mailto:egoetz@udel.edu).
- **John Morgan** (Physics and Astronomy): Comments on reapportionment. There have been apportionments made incorrectly in the past that have had to be corrected. The Senate should make data available to anyone.

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

- No items were removed from the consent agenda.
- Approved 60 to 0.
  1. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MA in Africana Studies**
  2. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the Africana Studies Graduate Certificate**
  3. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MS in Art Conservation**
  4. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MS in Athletic Training**

5. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MBA in Business Administration**
6. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MS in Business Analytics and Information Management**
7. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the PhD in Communication**
8. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the PhD in Economics**
9. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MS in Economic and Applied Econometrics**
10. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the Entrepreneurship & Innovation Certificate**
11. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MS in Finance**
12. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the 4 + 1 BS/MS in Finance**

13. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MMP in Marine Policy**
  
14. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the Marine Studies PhD – Marine Policy Concentration**
  
15. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the Marine Studies MS – Oceanography Concentration**
  
16. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the Marine Studies MS – Physical Ocean Science and Engineering Concentration**
  
17. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the PhD Marine Studies – Physical Ocean Science and Engineering Concentration**
  
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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MMSE in Materials Science and Engineering**
  
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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the PhD in Materials Science and Engineering**

20. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the PhD in Oceanography**
  
21. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the PhD in Physics**
  
22. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MA in Political Science and International Relations**
  
23. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the PhD in Political Science and International Relations**
  
24. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MA in Strategic Communication**
  
25. 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 Strategic Communication Certificate**
  
26. 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 on Education (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for the request to **revise the MA in Urban Affairs and Public Policy**



27. 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 for the request to **disestablish concentrations within the Exercise Science MS – Biomechanics Concentration**
28. 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 for the request to **disestablish concentrations within the Exercise Science MS –Exercise Physiology Concentration**
29. 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 for the request to **disestablish concentrations within the Exercise Science MS –Motor Control Concentration**
30. 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 for the request to **disestablish concentrations within the Exercise Science MS –Sports Medicine Concentration**
31. 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 for the request to **disestablish the Decision Analysis within the Agricultural and Resource Economics MS**

**VI. Regular Agenda:**

**A. Unfinished Business:** None

**B. New Business:**

**a. Mid-Year Senate Committee Reports:** ([attachment](#))

**C. Academic Resolutions:**

1. Recommendation from Senator John Jebb with Co-Sponsor Vickie Fedele for the revision of the Faculty Handbook Section 3.1.13 Concerning Religions Holidays ([Attachment 1](#))

- WHEREAS, UD is committed to creating an educational community that is intellectually, culturally, and socially inclusive, enriched by the contribution and participation of persons from many different backgrounds; and
- WHEREAS, UD is sensitive to calendars of primary sacred times for world religions, while maintaining the policy not to cancel classes on religious holidays; and
- WHEREAS, awareness of religious holidays assists faculty in planning courses and in answering students' requests about absences on religious holidays; and
- WHEREAS, the current Faculty Handbook features only a limited list of religious holidays – on which students may need to be absent from class to participate in observances; and
- WHEREAS, the inclusion of significant Muslim and Hindu holidays to those currently listed on the Academic Calendar will offer Muslim and Hindu members of the UD community both practical and symbolic support; be it therefore
- RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate recommend the changes to the Faculty Handbook included in [Attachment 1](#).

**Discussion:**

- Stuart Kaufman (Political Science and International Relations): Undergrad Studies approved a link to a different list that was more comprehensive. (*Prof. Kaufman was called on later and indicated that his questions were answered by subsequent statements.*)
- Pres. Boncelet: I made a mistake. Sen. Jebb as introducer should be allowed to speak first to present the rationale for this resolution.
- John Jebb (English): In April 2019 I first proposed this motion, adding some holidays and separating notifications about religion from athletic notifications. Thanks to Chanele Moore who was my original cosponsor and to Vickie Fedele who is my current cosponsor. In Fall 2019, we met with UGS, chaired by Bill Rose, and some changes were suggested including the addition of Diwali. In winter 2020, this was still bouncing around among committees, and the pandemic hit, so we did not think this was a high priority during the pandemic.

This Fall it was still bouncing around, and the Executive Committee decided to send it to the floor for actual consideration.

I became interested in this issue several years ago when a Muslim student indicated that his participation might fall off a bit because of fasting during Ramadan. Later, another Muslim student did a report on Muslim holidays and the American workplace, which enhanced our cultural awareness. In 2010/2011, the senate discussed religious holidays in a committee of the whole format. That led to a resolution approved in May 2011 to add the Interfaith calendar link to the catalog. In 2018, Pres. Assanis indicated that the list of holidays seemed limited. That, along with the attack on a mosque in New Zealand, led me to act anew in Spring 2019.

The first two WHEREAS clauses are from the May 2011 resolution -- I did not write them, but I borrowed them. I recycled them because they had themes that still matter. Why list and name the holidays? The practical effect of this resolution is to add these holidays to the box that is already on the UD calendar. It is also useful for us to know about when students might wish to be away. The resolution seeks to extend the receptiveness to students of Muslim and Hindu cultures, and other religious holidays could be added later.

Finally, the symbolic aspect of this list is to show awareness and receptiveness of diversity within the student population. A list with no holidays shows no effort to be inclusive or to show understanding to students, and a list that only shows Judeo-Christian holidays continues a limitation on inclusiveness.

- Vickie Fedele (Associate in Arts Program): The current listing in the handbook only has Jewish and Christian holidays, and that privileges those two religions. We are showing that other religions are "other." We particularly must be aware of Muslim holidays because of a recent rise of anti-Muslim bias. We have an anti-Muslim group in southern Delaware, and politicians have made use of anti-Muslim sentiment. Adding holidays will not end prejudice, but it is a small step to encourage inclusiveness. Some might argue that a fair solution would be to remove all names of specific holidays and provide a link to an interfaith calendar. We know that percentages of click-throughs on links are small, and we have a much better chance getting our point across about normalizing and embracing other religions if we actually list the major holidays. Why miss this opportunity to educate people.
- Rusty Lee (Civil and Environmental Engineering, UGS Chair): It was discussed in UGS, and we felt we are still setting a boundary by going to just four religions. Many of our peer institutions have gone away from lists. The proposal was revised by UGS, but a committee could not revise the list without permission of the proposer, which we did not get. We introduced New Business in December that would remove all religious holidays, but that is still pending.

- President Assanis: I support this resolution and want to move in the direction of being a more inclusive community. I have seen two different approaches: one is a very broad list, and the other is to put the spirit of the policy (accommodation) in the handbook and have the provost put out a list each semester.
- José Riera (VP Student Life). Notes that there is a catalog statement on excused absences for holidays that are not in the particular list. Other holidays not on our list can be recognized by this method. That language is in the catalog but not in the faculty handbook.
- Chris Williams (Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, President Elect). I was chair of Graduate Studies last year, and we had proposed taking the list out. What VP Riera was bringing up was much closer to what was proposed in committees. Graduate Studies and UGS are still considering adding this language.

**Approved, 47 to 11**

*As announced during Agenda Approval, Resolution 3 was discussed and voted on before resolution 2, so the order presented here does not capture the order of discussion.*

2. Recommendation from the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair) with the concurrence of the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for a revision to the **Faculty Handbook Section 3.1.4 Examinations and Tests** ([Attachment 1](#))

WHEREAS, because the newly adopted course schedule in the Faculty Handbook section 3.1.6 has two time slots that overlap with the current time slots for "common examinations", be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Handbook section 3.1.4 be amended so that the time slot for "common examinations" on Monday-Friday be moved to 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm as indicated in [Attachment 1](#)

### **Discussion**

- Chris Williams (Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, President Elect): Just making common exam times work with the schedule change just approved in Resolution 3.

**Approved 59 to 0**

3. Recommendation from the Coordinating Committee on Education (Chris Williams, Chair) with the concurrence of the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for a revision to the **Faculty Handbook Section 3.1.6 – Instructional Program Policies** ([Attachment 1](#))

WHEREAS, the course schedule in the Faculty Handbook section 3.1.6 has not been updated to reflect regularly used evening time slots, and

WHEREAS, additional time slots are needed to facilitate course scheduling, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that Faculty Handbook 3.1.6 be updated ([Attachment 1](#)) to reflect those changes.

#### **Discussion**

- Chris Williams (Entomology and Wildlife Ecology, President Elect): Coordinating Committee worked with the Provost's office to change this section to reflect current practice.
- Fred Hofstetter (Education): Why not have 5:30--8:30? That is popular in Education.
- Pres. Boncelet: item 9 of this section allows nonstandard times.
- Provost Morgan: there is nothing to keep a unit like School of Education from scheduling a particular time that works for them.

**Approved** 59 to 0

#### **D. Regular Resolutions:**

4. Recommendation from the Faculty Senate Promotions and Tenure Committee (Chandra Reedy, Chair) with the concurrence of the Executive Committee (Charles Boncelet, Chair) for an **addition to the Faculty Handbook section 4.4 Promotion and Tenure** ([Attachment 1](#))

WHEREAS, the Covid pandemic of 2020 through 2021 has caused unexpected and unprecedented disruptions to faculty's ability to conduct research, teaching, and service, and

WHEREAS, in August, 2020, Provost Robin Morgan formed a Task Force on Equity in Faculty Evaluations, charged with developing policies and other recommendations for consideration by the Provost and the Faculty Senate, and

WHEREAS, the Task Force made several recommendations in its report ([Task Force Report](#)); be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Handbook be revised to include a new section as per [Attachment 1](#).

#### **Discussion**

- Chandra Reedy (Public Policy and Administration, Chair of Promotion and Tenure Committee): As Chair of P&T I was a member of the task force put

together by the Provost that did its work last fall. Report is attached, and there was a public hearing. As P&T Chair I was asked to turn the recommendations into a resolution, which were then edited by the Executive Committee. There is greater detail in the report than in the resolutions.

- Chandra Reedy proposes a friendly amendment that the line "who are in their probationary period" be removed from line 2 of numbered paragraph 1.
- **Discussion of Amendment**, none
- Pres. Boncelet notes that this requires a 2/3 majority because we are changing the faculty handbook.
- **Amendment approved** 56 to 1.
- John Jebb (English and Parliamentarian): We needed to understand that we needed a 2/3 vote to agree to vote on the amended resolution.
- Fred Hofstetter (Education): We forwarded this to our faculty and got back some responses. We're glad you are optimistic that COVID will be over by Summer 2021. Some of the faculty find it troubling that they need to make a statement on how COVID has affected their work. We may need an additional statement that the evaluations will be made in the context of the COVID statement.
- Pres. Boncelet: notes section on External Reviewers addresses issue of directing reviewers to take this statement into account. We decided that the unknown duration of the epidemic makes choosing a specific date and let it be changed later if needed.
- Chandra Reedy: Intention of the 4th part of the resolution is to ask evaluators to pay attention to differential effects of COVID on candidates.

**Approved** 56 to 3.

**VII. Presentations:** Meg Grotti, Assistant Head of instructional Services, Morris Library, Open Educational Resources Initiative

- We are promoting open and affordable course initiatives. Students make course decisions partly based on textbook cost, especially when family incomes are affected by the pandemic. This is not unique to UD (shows an example from University of Maryland).
- University of Georgia study from Inside Higher Ed shows that final grades of students in courses with Open Educational Resources (OER) are higher than in non-OER courses, and the difference is larger for Pell Grant students than for non-Pell students.
- Library and Faculty Commons are here to help make low-cost and no-cost course material available. We have given grants to help faculty adapt course materials. There will be an RFP for further grants in early April. Info is at

<https://library.udel.edu/teaching-and-learning/oer/>.

**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.)

**Amy Hagstrom** (Nursing, Senate Vice President):

This Senate overwhelmingly approved a very important resolution to establish the Office of the Ombudsperson that offers our campus community an accessible resource for neutral, independent, and informal dispute resolution.

This resolution, article 26, passed in May 2018 with a vote of 51-6-0 and would provide everyone a neutral place to voice concerns and receive impartial assistance in resolving conflicts and problems. More importantly, this would affirm the University's dedication to fostering a climate of fairness, equity, and respect by encouraging collaborative problem-solving.

It appears, however, that this resolution has dropped out of the sight of the more than 70 people that worked on writing this collaborative resolution. Worth noting, this Senate voted to support the new Graduate College at the same meeting that this meaningful proposal was presented. I am asking that the resolution is revisited by administration with the Senate as my colleagues and I believe that now more than ever we need the Office of the Ombudsperson.

Thank you.

**Jim Morrison** (Public Policy and Administration):

Last semester, students in my LEAD100 course identified as an issue they labeled as Student Food Insecurity. A study conducted at Temple a few years ago that included UD data showing about 20% of students have food insecurity in the sense of not knowing where their next meal is coming from. Students did a study on their own and confirmed these results. I am requesting that the Executive Committee look into the issue and figure out what the impact is.

President Boncelet will direct this request to the Student Life Committee.

**President Assanis:** just got confirmation that the state will be testing on Laird Campus at least 1000 tests every Friday.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01.