

UUP SBU Communication Committee
University Senate Meeting Report

Oct.7, 2019, 3.30-5 PM
MART Building Auditorium

Meeting called to order by Senate President Nancy Tomes at 3:30 PM.

I. Opening of Meeting

- LiveStreaming Southampton and UUP West Campus Communication Committee on-site support. URL for full livestream [here](#).
- Minutes from the last senate meeting were approved, see [here](#).
- Senate President Nancy Tomes announced she is not running again since she will be taking her final sabbatical. Nominees will be announced at the Nov. 4 Senate meeting and the election will be at the Dec. 2 meeting.

II. Discussion with Interim President Michael Bernstein

- SBU went down in US News rankings due to the high cost of living compared to salaries. All NY metro colleges/universities went down on average 10 points. LI colleges/universities on average went down over 20 points.
- Stony Brook is still the highest ranked state institution in New York State.
- Read his entire report [here](#).

III. Discussion with Interim Provost Minghua Zhang

- Goals:
 - Prioritizing student success.
 - Graduation rate for 4 and 6 year graduations gone up 14% over the last 5 years.
 - Social mobility ranked #3 across all universities in the country - SBU #1 among AAU universities.
- Important to have resources for faculty regarding research and scholarship.
- Read his entire report [here](#).



IV. Discussion with Senior Vice President for Health Sciences Ken Kaushansky

- The Cancer Center is having an External Advisory Board meeting, then going up for certification. It now has over 17 million in external funding.
- The athletic training program now has a masters program.
- School of social welfare moved from 71st to 51st in rankings.
- SBUH healthcare system expanding.
 - The children's hospital opens 11/17.
 - SBUH expanding even more in Commack to double its current capacity.
- Read his entire report [here](#).
- Question from audience about plans for parking to K. Kaushansky.
 - Answer: Working with K. Byington, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration to build a new structure to accommodate 1500-2000 cars. Either on the north side of HSC or East side. Still figuring out finances to make it happen.
- Question from audience to K. Kaushansky about incoming student diversity in the medical school, which has remained stagnant for 40 years for African American students.
 - Answer: diversity is improving every year. 17-18% incoming are People of Color. Faculty too are getting more diverse - HSC is in the 79th percentile for women. 68th percentile for underrepresented folks. Kaushansky charged Admissions to increase consideration in these areas.

V. Q and A with members of the Presidential Search Committee, moderated by members of the Senate Executive Committee.

- Not entire committee was invited, only students, faculty and staff representing our constituency.
- Faculty were elected by secret ballot done in september.
- Staff and students on the committee were chosen by Kevin Law, search chair.
- A new MD added to represent clinical perspective.
- 7 of the committee were in attendance. They have signed confidentiality agreements about search process.
 - Brooke Ellison - SHTM - Assistant prof.
 - Josh Dubnau - Prof. Neurobiology and Anesthesiology
 - Mark Aronoff- Prof. Linguistics
 - Celia Marshik - Prof., Chair, English
 - Axel Dress - Prof., Chair, Physics & Astronomy
 - Xiaoqing Zhang - PhD student, School of Health Technology and Management
 - Latha Chandon - Pediatrics faculty



Q: Who is search firm?

A: Issacson, Miller New firm. So far we are impressed.

Q: What qualities are you looking for?

A: Diversity valued by a leader. We want evidence, data, that these candidates have a demonstrated record of, commitment to, and action in relation to many qualities, esp. diversity. Someone committed to faculty governance & academic excellence. Someone who will hear students voices, involve students in decisions that impact them. Someone who can bring our diverse community together.

Q: Infrastructure: 30 years ago was appropriately sized, but since then we doubled but infrastructure hasn't, Next president needs to understand that we can't solve this by growing more students. Dorms, research spaces, parking, etc needs to grow. Members of council don't know this, you do b/c you work here

A: Challenges LI faces are issue here too. We will keep this in mind.

Q: There are unique differences between east and west campus. Will there be an effort to unify east and west, while maintaining their uniqueness?

A: Diversity is also in our programs. We all recognize the importance of collaboration and many perspectives. While Nicolls road bisects us, we need to work better to overcome this. It is a challenge and an opportunity we haven't taken advantage of as much as we might.

Q: Please keep professionals in mind - we are 15% of the senate. We need a leader who will improve the climate for staff. We are the first to be cut, and not replaced. There is no clear path for career advancement, which needs to change, and we need to hold managers accountable.

A: The staff person on this committee is not here, but we will keep this in mind.

Q: From the Senate Executive Committee: The 7 faculty elected represent specific schools but also need to think about SBU as a whole. How are you thinking about that challenge?

A: We have been impressed with the fact that nobody is looking out only for their area. CAS is an ecosystem, but so is university. We all looking out for each other. We were elected by the entire faculty, not just our subgroup.

VI. UUP Report (C. Kube and E. Quinn)

- Carolyn Kube, HSC Chapter President.
 - Discretionary money decided around now for all UUP members, east and west campus. It will be paid at the end of December. 1% of all salaries, pool divided in half (.5) towards salary compression. Regression analysis to formulate things. Campuses will begin their own analysis. Folks can get \$ from both pots - if depressed and/or at the discretion of management.
 - Pre-retirement workshops happening in november.
 - Open enrollment time - dependent care, health flex spending, and NYSHIP

- Ed Quinn, West Campus Chapter President.

- Our chapter Newsletter went out this AM. It has upcoming events, new officers and delegate list too.
- Having a Town hall on the 22nd & we want to hear issues we can bring forward.
- We are working closely with HSC and Carolyn to advocate as 1 campus.
- General membership meeting on 10/17.
- Member benefits workshop on 10.29 in the Poetry Center.
- We now have an office in Southampton with office hours.

VII. New Business

- Resolution on the floor regarding the Ashley Schiff Park Preserve. Presented by UUP member Tom Wilson.
 - Resolution calls for the University Senate to formally endorse permanent preservation as 'forever wild'.
 - Local legislators are working on legislation to add it as a formal NYS park.
 - A similar effort almost succeeded 10 years ago.
 - Upon getting a senate endorsement we will take to the administration.
- UUP member M. Bowman seconded the resolution and stated that the Preserve was surveyed as a biological preserve 50 years ago.
 - Right now it could be paved tomorrow with the stroke of a pen. We need it to protect it. Think of it as SBU Central Park.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5 PM.