

# University Senate Meeting Report

## UUP SBU Communication Committee

Compiled by University Senate members Andrew Solar-Greco & Jackie Donnelly

**April 6th, 2020, 3:30-5:00 PM**

**Zoom**

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

Recorded footage can be found [here](#).

### **I. Approval of agenda**

University Senate  
April 6, 2020, 3.30-5 PM  
Zoom meeting

- I. Approval of tentative agenda
  - II. Approval of Mar. 2, 2020 minutes ([Please review here](#))
  - III. Welcome from Nancy Tomes, President of the University Senate
  - IV. Report, discussion and vote on resolution regarding stopping of tenure clock.
  - V. Report from Interim President Michael Bernstein
  - VI. Report from Senior VP for Government and Community Relations/Chief Deputy to the President, Judith Greiman,
  - VII. Report from Interim Provost Minghua Zhang
  - VIII. Report from Vice President of Health Sciences and Dean, SOM Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky ([Link to written report](#))
  - IX. Nominations for Secretary Treasurer of the University Senate and
    - i. Statewide Senators to SUNY University Faculty Senate (elections in May)
  - X. UUP Report (C. Kube and E. Quinn)
  - XI. Old Business
  - XII. New Business
- 

Approved, motion passes.

### **II. Welcome from Nancy Tomes, President of the University Senate**



- **Opening remarks**

- Thank you all of you for your flexibility and patience in moving our Senate work on line, particularly the chairs and members of our Standing Committees.
- One of the issues the Senate still has to face is the fate of our 2020 spring elections. Before spring break, I was about to send to you the Senate President's annual call for nominations for empty seats on the Standing committees and slots for Senators at Large; along with my counterparts in the A and S Senate, we were planning to create a nomination form and ask people to volunteer, and then send out an online ballot in May. But in light of the many challenges we face at the moment, the EC is rethinking the timing of these elections.
  - There are two big concerns here:
    - First, with so much to do in order to provide distance learning and otherwise cope with the disruption of everyone's work lives, this is a very bad time to try to recruit people to any kind of university service.

- Second, due to the pandemic crisis, we have been unable to fill the SL2 position that would give us a professional staff member to help with the labor in preparing the ballot. As Pam and I discovered last year, there is a lot of fact checking and ID number gathering that has to be done to prepare that SOLAR ballot and make sure people get it. We managed to do this last year with the help of a very able temp; but doing that work now, even with the valuable service of Liz Fish, would be very difficult.
- In recognition of these challenges, the EC proposes the following:
  - 1. That we go ahead with the election in May, by electronic ballot, of the three Statewide Senators we need to send to the SUNY University Faculty Senate. We have checked with our DOIT colleagues, and they assure us they can handle this vote.
  - 2. That we hold a vote at the May 4 University Senate meeting, using the Zoom polling technology, to elect a new Secretary Treasurer of the University Senate. (Pam W. has decided not to run for reelection.)
    - Sarah Battaglia (School of Health Technology and Management) has been nominated and accepted the nomination to stand for this position.
    - If you have other names to suggest, please send them to us ASAP. As the constitution specifies, you have 10 days from today to nominate other people for the Secretary-Treasurer position.
  - 3. That we postpone the rest of the election process—the call for nominations, the submission and vetting of candidates, and the vote on those nominated, until the early Fall. The new President Richard Larson would send the call out in early September; we would have a nomination period of two weeks, the vote would be held in late September, so that we would have new members in place by the October 5, 2020 meeting of the University Senate.
  - We need to get your approval for this plan. In the next week, we will send out an email with a simple poll to let you vote yay or nay.

### **III. Approval of 3/2/20 meeting minutes**

- Approved, minutes passed

### **IV. Report, Discussion and Vote on resolution regarding stopping of tenure clock.**

# Resolution to Pause the Tenure Clock for Junior Faculty Interrupted by the Corona Virus

The Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Policy Committee

March 30, 2020

**Whereas** The novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic it has spawned has created extraordinary and unprecedented obstacles to the continuation of faculty research, scholarship, and education; and

**Whereas** Faculty have been asked to develop entirely new modes of instruction in record time, often while caring for young children or other family members whose schools and daycares are closed or who may be ill; and

**Whereas** Research labs, libraries, and archives are shuttered, interrupting research programs; and

**Whereas** These circumstances are of particular concern for faculty working toward tenure and/or promotion; and

**Whereas** To date, over 100 campuses, including Yale, Ohio State, University of Michigan, and UCLA, recognizing the need to support their faculty during these challenging times, have instituted an extension of the tenure clock for all faculty who desire it; and

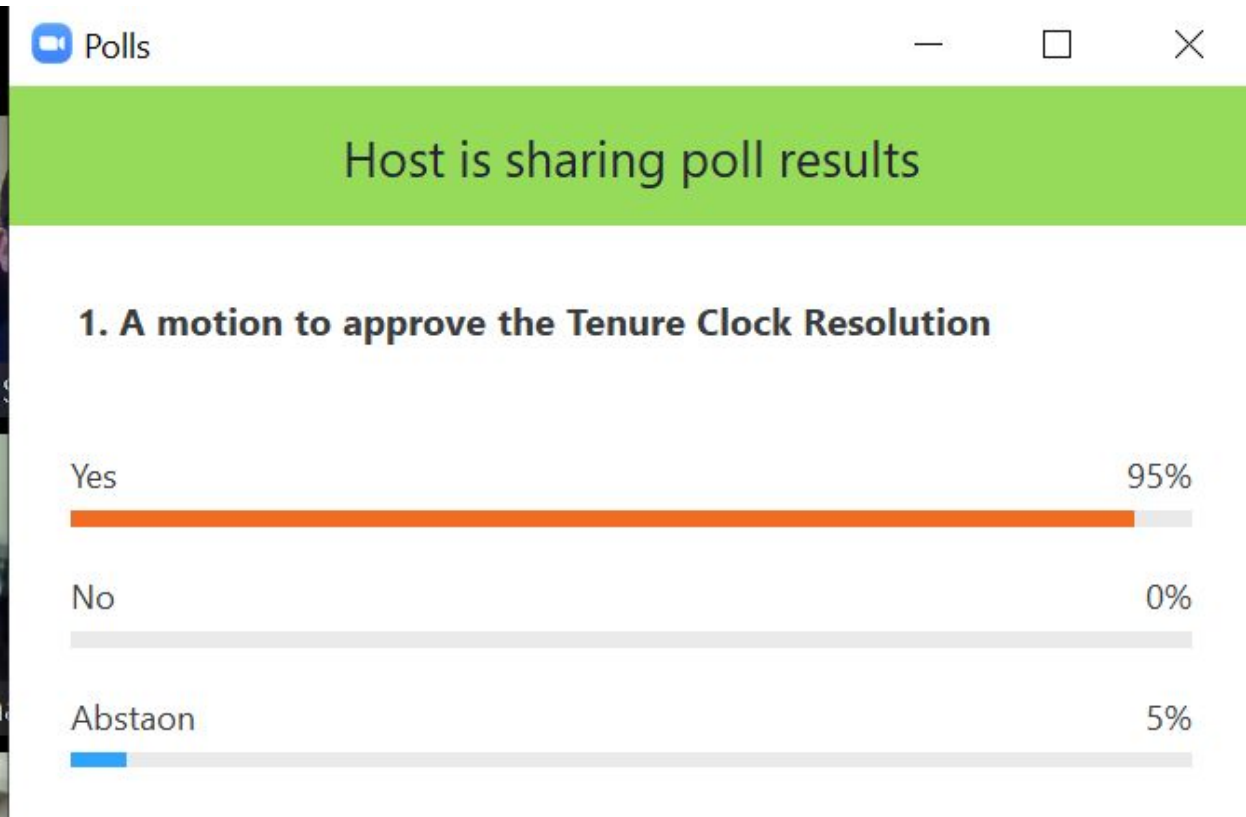
**Whereas** Current Stony Brook and SUNY policies do not provide an avenue for faculty to be granted an extension of the tenure clock without incurring either financial or professional penalties, aside from taking parental leave or moving to a qualified academic rank,

**Therefore be it Resolved** That an extraordinary one year extension of the tenure track be automatically extended to all current junior faculty who are scheduled to be notified of their permanent appointment on or later that 1 September 2021.

**Be it Further Resolved** That faculty impacted by this extension may opt out and choose to remain on their original schedule.

- F. Walter presenting
  - Will extend tenure clock for all current Jr. Faculty.
  - Faculty may opt-out and stay on schedule if they wish
  - Will support the provost since this has to go up to Albany and change SUNY Board of Trustees in Albany.
- J. Heinz - UUP Academic Council voted universally to support this
- J. Sanders - Can the incoming President be asked to support this?
- P. Manning - What can we do to support Graduate Students, this issue applies to them too.
  - E. Wertheimer - we are working on adjusting considerations for graduate students too.
- Motion passed.





**V. Discussion with Interim President Michael Bernstein (report distributed in advance)**



**Current state of affairs changed drastically, gives thanks to University Administration, UPD, Student Affairs, CELT, faculty, staff, and students.**

**Data:**

- As of 4/6, had 7,000 zoom meetings
- 113,000 participants
- 4.8 million meeting minutes
- Blackboard - 4,000 active BB classes
  - ECHO 360, 46,000 lecture videos watched (will get rest from report)

**Summary of Noteworthy Actions:**

- Websites developed on West & HSC campus for FAQ's for campus community
- Operating a triage site in commuter parking lot for Hospital
- Commuter parking lot COVID test site
- ACE and FEMA - 1,000 bed field hospital being built
- Moved majority of students off campus, some remain - maintain food service, etc.
- VISA/Immigration issues handled in non-residential setting
- Decontamination facility created in conjunction with BNL
- Shut down elective critical care - significant revenue loss, but operating at a higher level
- Quarantine site on Southampton campus, in residence halls
- University moved to fully online academic delivery
- Shut down all out of state enrollment activities ?
- Addressing promotion and tenure policies
- Donation of PPE for hospital employees, computers, Ipads, for Telemedicine and other activities
- Food for hospital workers and staff
- Shut down all Arts, Cultural, and Athletics activities
- Moved employee wellness programs online
- Hand sanitizer produced by CHE dept.
- Engineering teams, medical leadership and SHTM trying to develop new ventilator technologies
- "Fighting a war...why all efforts being made"
- New President, Maurie McInnis, engaged in ongoing campus community projects, Bernstein working with her as she transitions into her new role.

**QUESTIONS**

- E. Feldman
  - Question - Cuomo says the State is now broke. Do we have any idea yet how state finances will impact our campus community

- Answer - No. Our task is to track our costs and expenses and report out. We are gathering information and will seek to conduct reimbursement, and will work to
- A. Lewis - Editor from the Statesmen
  - Question - Seniors are furious Commencement was cancelled, has it changed your opinion? Will there be one later in the summer?
    - Answer - immediate focus is virtual event, will research future options. I understand why folks are concerned.
- J. Dubnau
  - Question - online education - Is there a commitment from the admin to return to full face-to-face education as soon as the crisis has receded.
    - Answer - We are committed to returning to normal as soon as we can. We recognize this will look different in the future. Could be a hybrid model, we don't know what the next few months looks like.
- F. Walter
  - Questions - When will we learn how the Fall semester will be?
    - Answer - I don't have a deadline at the moment. Proceeding to plan for a normal fall semester but next few weeks will determine things. We would all like to see a normal on-time fall semester.
- A. Lewis
  - Question - 21 confirmed COVID-19 cases at SBU right now. Are they students? Where are they? Are they isolated?
    - Answer - I don't have that information available right now.

**Senior VP for Government and Community Relations/Chief Deputy to the President,  
Judith Greiman**



### **State Budget as passed by the legislature:**

- Completed at the end of last week
- State experiencing financial gap before COVID, significant gap now
- Unique in that it has provided significant broad authority to the Governor for 3 distinct time periods.
- Cuts are supposed to be across the board, budget can change at any given time (3 different times throughout the upcoming year)
- Legalization of marijuana did not make budget
- K-12 aid received an increase, no change in allocation - can be adjustments made during the year.
- Medicaid significant gap in budget - redesign team created, most recommendations were enacted, but delayed date. Aid contingent on not making changes to Medicaid.

### **Impact on Stony Brook**

- Share payments not cut for our hospital
- Gov. proposed tuition increase over 5 years, not passed
- Opportunity programs funded at same level
- Gov proposed to change the way Centers for Excellence are funded, not fully supported
- Secured 9 million dollars from the Stadium - redirected to Engineering Bldg.
- Hospital secured 50 million in capital funding, state does not pick up debt service funding
- 200 million capital matching program secured

### **Questions:**

- **J. Sanders**
  - Question: Implications of the temporary hospital being built? Federal government had 50 million dollar contract - counted toward the 200 million dollars?
    - Answer - No, doesn't know details of contract
  - Question: What will be done with the temporary hospital after?
    - Answer - Taken down and fields fixed

### **V. Discussion with Interim Provost Minghua Zhang (report distributed in advance)**





### **Updates:**

Thanks given to all Faculty and staff to accommodating online education  
“Zoom bombing”

- CELT responded to concerns, Patricia Aceves took charge

Laura Littlefield will lead COVID Task force, charged with making policy recommendations related to academic affairs during this crisis.

- Lab courses
- Online exams and assessment
- Technologies
- Faculty affairs
- Tenure Policy
- Graduate affairs
- Research policy and academic implications
- Clinical affairs
- Online pedagogy and standards.

### **Plans beyond current semester**

- All undergrad instruction for Summer Session II & II will be done remotely
- No high school instruction this summer

### **We are all learning**

- Patience and ideas are welcomed.

## Questions:

### - **A. Drees**

- Question - Graduate students were told they would not be able to return to campus to return to do research in labs. There is a lot of anxiety here for students and Faculty
  - Answer - This was for online instruction only.
  - Eric Wertheimer, Dean of Graduate School - message going out to GPCs soon on how graduate students can remain active outside the lab and meet research grant needs.

### - **A. Lewis**

- Question - COVID-19 Task Force - are contingency plans being handled if the fall semester is offered online.
  - Answer - We are thinking about this, it is being worked out. It will be communicated to the campus community once we know. We need to make contingency plans in the event people can't return for the fall.

### - **Thomas Sanford, Graduate Student**

- Question - Students are concerned about how pass/no credit will affect graduate students. Does Stony Brook have a stance on this?
  - Answer from Eric Wertheimer - Difficult decision for grad students to make. We encourage them to work closely with advisors to figure out what is best for their standing. Porting over academic status from Fall '19 to Fall '20. Whatever happens this semester should not count against you for your standing. We are trying to limit that effect.
  - Answer from Minghua Zhang - We won't hold a student back based on their decision of pass/no pass.

## **VI. Discussion with Senior Vice President of Health Sciences ([report sent in advance](#)) and Dean, SOM**



### **Clinical situation**

- 400 patients as having COVID-19 ( $\frac{2}{3}$  of normal hospital capacity)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  in ICU, and 100 on mechanical ventilation
- 20 or 25 ventilators left
- 26 patients discharged last week, patients also passing away
- Increase of curve in those staying (abt. 15 days on average)
- NYC flattening of admissions curve
- PPE is in better supply, N95 masks can be used again, sterilized
- Temporary hospital still new, no set plans yet

### **Education**

- SOM graduating students 7 weeks early, virtual graduation in 2 days. Want them to work for SBUH, and half have already signed up to work
- Working with Deans in SHTM to get students out early to work, but accrediting agencies bring up compliance issues.
- All east campus courses online, software obtained to do virtual anatomy.
- Experiential learning is challenging, doing it by Telehealth

### **Highlights of Research Side of East Campus**

- Working to better understand virus, and treat virus
- Conducting clinical trials
- New drug designed during Ebola epidemic being used in trials
- Inflammation is a major part of COVID 19, and a critical component of treating if it can be targeted.
- Most promising way to treat this - goes back to 1890's, treat with plasma - looking for those who have had COVID-19 and collect antibodies.
- Two studies - hydroxychloroquine & azithromycin clinical trials to prevent health care workers from developing the infection, and can we prevent progression of COVID-19.
- Can we get enough data to predict symptoms and signs
- SOM, SHTM, CEAS - working together to produce PPE. CEAS designed face shields, ventilator splitters, and built new ventilators - working towards approval.

## Questions

### - E. Feldman

Thank you for your comprehensive report to Senate, very useful.

Question: Patients on ventilators, are they on them longer now, and what is the success rate of being taken off.

- Answer - Some get off the ventilator for 1 week, some in excess of 2 weeks. Varies greatly. Many patients extubated more frequently - good sign.

### - K. Masterson

Question: Hydroxychloroquine studies: talk more about, do you have experience in trials/usage?

Answer - No, we don't have experience in trials. Studies are for both inpatient and outpatient. Healthcare worker trials are randomized. On call with SUNY central, Gates foundation thinking about similar studies. Should have results in 1-2 months.

### - T. Sanford

Comment: Pass thanks on to doctors working in this area.

### J. Sanders

Question: What are you doing to trace information, record projects and express definitiveness.

Answer - Will consider this.

### - J. Dubnau

Recovering COVID patients, can they go to SBUH to donate plasma/antibodies?

Answer - Working on it, waiting on IRB approval

### - A. Lewis

How many doctors were added by SOM seniors graduating early?

Answer - 50-60 new graduates working in the hospital with more stable COVID-19 patients.

- **C. Kube**

Question - 15 minute COVID test, are we going to get it?

Answer - FDA just approved the test, and yes we are going to be using it as we were part of the study.

- **T. Wilson**

Question - How fast is the test you have now?

Answer - There are 2 tests: test for virus, nasal test and very limited maybe 40-50 tests with a 2-3 turnaround time. For healthcare workers, we are reserving rapid tests for them. 395 have COVID-19 in SBUH.

- **A. Lewis**

- Question - How will the temporary hospital operate?

- Answer - it was built before we were asked what we will need it for.
- We hear it will be for non-COVID patients. They said the same thing about Javits, now it is taking COVID folks. We don't know for sure.

- Question - Will it be staffed by SBUH?

- Answer - Not sure

**VII. UUP Report (C. Kube and J. Heinz)**



**East Campus - C. Kube, HSC Chapter President**



- We have suspended all activity since we are in a state of flux. All Educational schools are working remotely. We will have virtual workshops at the end of april. Folks have been redeployed or moved around. Will have workshops soon. In the COVID state of mind right now.

**West Campus - J. Heinz, VP Academics**



- Fielded hundreds of requests from members
  - Thanks to Membership, Communications, and Grievance & Workplace Concerns Committees for managing these requests.
- A lot of folks were asking for more communication from the administration, a work from home policy, etc. These demands have been met
- Outstanding asks
  - Hazard pay for those working on campus.
  - For management at the Statewide level:
    - Renew contingents for the fall
      - they have gone above and beyond adjusting to online ed.
- During the initial crisis 50-60 graduate students were without housing and UUP partnered with GSO.
  - We found temporary housing for them in the meantime and aided financially in getting them temporary housing.
- UUP Academic Council
  - Meeting regularly for a few weeks now to deal with the current and future crisis.
    - We want to work with the Senate on these issues.

- What will happen in the fall with budget ramifications? Faculty need to come together to work with the administration and advocate for public education.
- Compensation
  - Folks working overtime, adjuncts and all members are encouraged to document any extra work they are doing. UUP is working to negotiate extra compensation with SUNY

**VIII. Old Business**

**IX. New Business**

**Adjourn at 5:13 PM**